

# Public Libraries

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## Unselfish Nature of Bibliographical Labor in the Last Century

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In the various departments of literature there have been those who performed unselfish service, whose works were "labors of love"—the expectation of pecuniary reward having little or no place, but the desire to serve having entire possession of their minds. This is true in a remarkable degree of what may properly be called the most recent field of literature—namely, Bibliography.

I have been led to a consideration of this "labor of love" as it has been manifested in bibliographical literature—somewhat more extensively in the past than in the present—by a recent re-reading of Dr Poole's preface to the 1882 edition of his *Index to Periodical Literature*. He says:

All the work has been done voluntarily and without pay. No money subscription has been asked of any one and not a farthing has been contributed from any source; for no money was needed. There has been, however, no gratuitous or charitable feature in it. Every contributing library will receive back the money value—some thirty fold, some sixty fold, some a hundred—of the labor which its librarian has put into it. This labor, which has been credited to his library has been done usually in hours of his own, taken from rest and recreation. The librarian will have his pay in the consciousness that what he has done will benefit his library and his readers, and may help his professional reputation.

Persons who look only to pecuniary reward should never engage in this kind of work.

Up to this time all the pecuniary reward I have had for indexing during these many years can be represented by an American copper coin which will cover one's thumb nail, and yet I have been well paid.

I have no doubt that my contemporaries in library work remember making these contributions to his Index, to which Dr Poole refers; and, recalling my own slight participation, have no doubt they remember what they did as a pleasant change from less stimulating labor, rather than as a task.

When one thinks of this infinite service done to literary workers of all classes by Dr Poole, he cannot escape the feeling that here is a conspicuous instance of toil utterly unrequited in any material way. And if the occupation of the one who contemplates this useful work, so unselfishly performed, is the acquisition of books, or of bibliographical knowledge, it is soon forced upon his attention that the *Index to Periodicals* is not a solitary instance in which bibliographical labor has been without adequate, or, indeed, any pecuniary reward.

Of course much of the same nature is told, and is true, of the authors of not a few of the famous books of the past; but they fall into a somewhat different category. Dr Poole's case, however, is not without parallels in bibliographical literature. Of a similar nature was the experience—with additional sad features—of the author of some of the best known general catalogs of the last century—works that are still most serviceable.

Probably the oftenest consulted of these nineteenth century catalogs are Petzholdt's *Bibliotheca Bibliographica*, Graesse's *Tresor des Livres*, Brunet's *Manuel du Libraire*, the *Bibliotheca Britannica* of Dr Robert Watt, and Lowndes's *Bibliographer's Manual*.

In the course of a long period of the use of these I have come not only to a knowledge of their great value, but also to feel a personal interest in their authors and have welcomed every item regarding these men and their methods of working, that have come my way. Of Petzholdt, Graesse, and Brunet, I have not had the good fortune to encounter matter other than that referring to their work—nothing as to the men themselves. M. Paul Deschamp, however, who supplemented Brunet's work, does say something in his preface which indicates that his distinguished predecessor found conditions hard for the prosecution of his work—even in France. He says:

"If there is an occupation in the world ill considered, profitless, hard, evil spoken of, it is that of the bibliographer. \* \* \* The savants recognize his existence, and if he will be modest and not interfere with the reputation of their books, or the administration of libraries, they will condescend to use him, this walking catalog—and God knows," this emotional Gaul concludes, "they use him very frequently!"

That which has impressed me most in what I have learned of the remaining two of this list of pioneers in bibliographical work, is that their labors were performed under difficulties, and not only was their pecuniary profit practically nothing, but their fame was posthumous.

Lowndes' *Manual*, unlike the other works that I have named, is general as to English literature only. For the English and American scholar, and librarian, however, this work is literally a *vade mecum*.

Of this man, Mr Henry G. Bohn, the English publisher, said in 1864:

Mr Lowndes spent the later years of his life in my service as a cataloguer, but his long course of bibliographical drudgery had

reduced him both in body and mind to a mere wreck of his former self. He died in 1843 and in his own history realized a fact of which he was always conscious, that Bibliography has no recognized status in England.

One's sympathies, however, are most excited by the story of Dr Watt. His *Bibliotheca Britannica* was in its beginning simply an index of medical literature. To this subject he added others, and continued to do so until he had included the principal printed books of the world. To accomplish this work he gave up his practice. His health failed and he was obliged to take to his bed, where he continued his work. In this race with death, death won, but by so narrow a margin that his work was practically complete. In a sympathetic sketch of him in *The Library* (I:56), from which much of the above has been learned, it is said: "He died a martyr to bibliography if ever there was one."

We, too, have had our martyr to bibliography. This was Mr Frederick Leyboldt of New York, whose 1876 American Catalog started that fairly adequate and continuous record of American books, that ever since has made the buying and selling, and general knowledge of them so satisfactory.

Mr Leyboldt died in 1884. The *Library Journal* said of him editorially and with no overstatement in regard to his character, or his work:

He was too enthusiastic for all that was good, too unsuspicious and too generous to be pecuniarily successful, at first at least. If he thought that any scheme would do good to the book trade, to the book buying public, or to the libraries, he could not refrain from trying it; and when he counted the cost beforehand it was with a sanguine belief that what was useful *must* be profitable, which experience did not always warrant.

Death came to him as the result of labors he had gone through.

I have read with avidity every word that has come to my notice regarding this little army of martyrs, and, also, regarding that larger army, whose labors have not been rewarded even by posthumous fame. While I was actively engaged in library work, administrative, I was under too much pressure for any excur-

sions out of my particular field of labor; and now that I have retired from active service as a librarian, retirement has been accompanied by physical and mental handicaps that are practically fatal to research, even of a biographical nature. But I find my mind reverting so often to this very important, but insufficiently appreciated labor, and to those who have so unselfishly performed it, that I have ventured to write about it, though obliged to write practically bookless, and aided only by old notes, hastily made, and a memory that now requires much nagging before it will respond.

But "the old order changeth"—the extraordinary multiplication of libraries, and the alliances formed by them with the educational work of the country, have much modified the old order. One judging by the number of bibliographical publications of various kinds produced at the present time, would say that it *paid* to produce them.

Something of this kind has come to pass. An enlarged market has either bred commercialism where it was formerly unknown, or it is a foreign invasion of this new field. The change has made for efficiency; there is no disputing that. But if it is asserted that the spirit pervading *all* of the new enterprises and methods, is comparable with the admirable spirit of the earlier day, the assertion will be disputed.

The idealists—there are still some left—deplore the change, while they are conscious that it was inevitable. Those to whom I have been referring were the pioneers in a movement for increased efficiency in literary work. They had the faith, the courage and the unselfishness of the pioneers in all the other movements for the betterment of mankind. This fact should not be forgotten, and the greater efficiency of the present should not be permitted in any way to obscure the fine fibre of which these were, and what they brought to pass.

As I write this the death is announced of one whom I have long honored as an able, indefatigable, and modest pioneer in this latest bibliographical renaissance, Dr George E. Little, librarian of Bowdoin college.

### What Next?\*

John Cotton Dana, librarian, Public library, Newark, N. J.

The reader in opening called attention to the value of the work of Library associations in general and of that of New York State in particular, quoting with approval certain remarks from *New York Libraries* about the association's work.

Then he said:

The war has shown us that we are quite uncivilized; are still able to act like dogs quarreling over a bone. Even in this country the war spirit is so prevalent as to show that our work with the "best books," our children's libraries, our classics, our stories and all our other well-meaning exertions have not abated and probably never will abate man's native ferocity. When Mars is talking books have to sit still. Librarians cannot prevent the breakdown of civilization! What, then, can they do? I find no maxim suited to the occasion, unless it is "Let us be humble."

But to invite you to a feast of humble pie is neither to prophesy nor to exhort; and you expect one or both. Do you not? What I seem to need first is a message, and I had hoped to find a message suited to the troubled times. I do not wish to preach business literature or maps or special libraries, though something on each of these may be expected. I wish to disappoint your expectations, of course.

Perhaps our work is so trivial that no industrial or social changes and no revelations of our moral state, which the war tells us is very low, can afford any reasons for modifying it.

At present that is my own view. The library, like the school, is merely an unimportant by-product of a certain stage of invention, discovery and social arrangement. As a by-product it is amusing, to some degree entertaining and to a very slight degree distinctly useful. But it is so much a product and so small

\* Read at the general session of the New York library association, Squirrel Inn, Catskills, Friday, Oct. 1, 1915.

and insignificant a product and to so small a degree a factor that it can find, in the social and economic changes and hideous moral revelations of the time, no new doctrines for its guidance as a practical, efficient factor.

If I am not right in this present view then we ought among us all to be able to say something like this: "The movie is doing this and that to change our fellows; the gas engine is bringing the city to the country and *vice versa*; the offset press and the typesetter and the mechanical etcher are doing this and that; the flying machine promises this, the phonograph and victrola that, and the war shows that we are as black as we can paint ourselves and that solidarity of men and parliaments of nations are dreams; therefore, we librarians should gird on the whole armor of our excellence and do"—Well, what should we do?

Having shown that our work is so slight and that we are so much more results than we are causes that even world-changes give us no new moral codes and no new moral banners to lift on high, I am driven to repetition, to cast in new forms a few of our old maxims. To say, for example, that who sweeps a room in accordance with common sense makes both room and action fine, especially if he sprinkle the room with the fresh water of a kindly humor! Being unimportant, let us be so smilingly. Let us exalt our calling for our own stimulation and make it so entertaining that our absence would be missed even though we have no speaking part.

I was first asked to speak to you about what the library of the future may be as a practical institution. I changed the title to "What next?" because, when I came to examine my topic, I found the reluctance with which I accepted your invitation was more than justified by my poverty of ideas. Not an absolute poverty, let me hasten to say, for the creative moments of our friend Bergson, when I feel that I am myself an original first cause, are not more rare than they ever were. My poverty of ideas disclosed itself as quite complete

when, as my opening remarks have told you, I asked myself this question: "Our fellow men having proved themselves fundamentally uncivilized, in spite of 25 or 30 centuries of books, five centuries of printers and 40 years of zealous and mission-hearted American librarians, what should the said American librarians do?"

Do you say that we should go on putting the right book in the right hands at the right moment? And will that persuade any not to fight, or to make shells, or to sell munitions or—except Mr Rockefeller—to lend money to those who are fighting? Some have said to me that it were better for mankind if in my own library work I put less emphasis on industry and more on culture and uplift; less on mere books and more on books of power; less on directories and more on Walter Pater and Henry Van Dyke. And I must reply by saying that the nations that have most freely wallowed for several centuries in "books of power" are the ones which are now wading deepest in one another's blood!

I am perfectly well aware that you do not think I am giving you the practical talk to which you are entitled. But I think I am. The first thing to do when you are going to build is to survey the site. The site for the practical—and the word as it was given to me, of course, meant useful—for the useful library edifice we hope to build is right in the center of poor human nature, and this center is now a morass of greed, servility, prejudice, national hatred and general beastliness, as Europe demonstrates. Surely it is an entirely practical proceeding first to look frankly at this morass and inquire, if we can, will libraries help a little in its drainage and purification, before we draw our plans and certainly before we venture to gaze with holy joy on the mere mirage of a noble and useful structure born of the heat of a baseless enthusiasm!

Now, if you will grant that the spirit which makes wars is so firmly rooted in us by the thousands of years of fighting through which man came to be what he is that it cannot be eradicated save by



centuries of effort; and if you will grant that you can not properly today treat of the future of the library as a useful thing without first of all examining its possible activities in the light of a frightful war; and if you grant that as an institution for ending war it is quite negligible, even if it heroically holds to red ink on its catalog cards, and stands solidly for the ribbon arrangement of fiction, and refuses to buy any more of Mr Chambers' novels,—then I will leave the subject and return to fault finding, advice and prognosis.

Librarians are continually coming together to hear the talk of persons who have never written great books. This is a strange performance for persons whose mission in life is to induce people to read the best books, is it not? I suppose it is true that those who cannot read must listen, or die in ignorance. But librarians can surely gather an ample supply of sweetness and riches from the printed page. Indeed, they are so skilled in this art, and have so great a faith in it, that they preach countless sermons on it. But, if librarians can read to profit, why do they so often meet to listen? They call the young away from the talker on the street, they rush books into a village to divert the participants from their local academy of the country store, they preach reading early and late, and write hymns to the printed page, and burn incense before the bound volume; and then they run off to a meeting to hear somebody say a little something that has been better said in print, if it was ever worth saying at all!

Oh! of course, there is the interchange of spirit at the meetings; the magic of together, and the informal discussions where we learn so much, and the inspirational atmosphere,—of this paper, for example! But, first, if those are the things for which library meetings exist, why not omit the talks? And, second, according to the missionary literature of our sect, there is nothing so uplifting, so humanizing and even so informing as books. Really and truly, now, can you deny that books are nobler, more masterly, more spiritual, more inspirational, more vitally social than any talk at any

Inn even by an intelligent librarian and still more intelligent laymen?

I will now turn about and admit that there are certain good things which can be accomplished only through meetings like this. But I am quite sure that there are too many of these meetings. And I am sure, also, that you ought to bring to your meetings much more of definite, careful work; I mean the clearly stated results of hard work of the previous year. This work is waiting to be done. Then these results should be printed and made available to the library world.

Is that what you call a practical suggestion? Do you admit that the library as a practical institution would be much more influential if you all accepted your own primal and oft repeated doctrine and read and studied each year more of those good books you are pressing upon others? If you then formulated the conclusions of your reading and your study, and compared notes with one another; and if you then, at occasional meetings like this, brought out your conclusions to be tested; and if, finally, having found that a promising residuum is left, gave it to the world?

I have for long years preached and written on this practical suggestion; but the preaching and the writing have not persuaded you, and, not at all to my surprise, you persist in your intemperance in listening. Though avowed protagonists of the practice of reading, in your hearts you are worshipers of preachers. You pray for more eye-mindedness in the world; but are yourselves ear-minded. You are not ashamed to feel that you are exercising and strengthening your intellects at meetings like this, when you are, in fact, merely gratifying your auditory centres with the cadences of a tinkling voice. Ignorant non-readers, of whom the world is full, must be permitted to listen much. They must even be permitted to think they have greatly developed their intellects when they have once heard a man of note declaim. But, for us, who are readers and preachers of reading, these delights and satisfactions in listening ought to be rare and greatly restrained.

It was plain to me that in the title

suggested for my talk—"the future of the library as a practical institution"—the word practical meant useful, bread-winning, business-promoting. I was to speak on the business man and of the sweet influence on him of the last New Zealand year book and of the post route map of Arkansas; and I was to show that the library of the future—not forgetting the things of the spirit, Oh! no, by no means! and not neglecting uplift, and not failing to pass a kind word in inspiration as I went along—I was to show that the library of the future will surely soon take its place as a useful and important factor in the world of affairs. Well, in my opinion, I do not need to prove to you that libraries are going to be far more useful, far more practical, far more closely allied to industrialism than they have ever been. Their advance in this direction is right now very rapid, and so open to the observant eye that any librarian who does not see it may be sure that his or her library is not of the kind which most of the libraries in the country soon will be.

In time the library is going to be of great importance in the world; but this importance will not be very fully shared in by libraries of the present prevailing type. We shall be obliged to change our scope and methods a good deal if we are to become usefully important or importantly useful.

You see what the book does, it does quietly. Even in education the results of its work are not obvious. One boy studies books and his brain develops; but father and old Vox Populi cannot see his brain, and cannot realize that his work on books is producing results. Another boy hammers a piece of perfectly good copper into something as ugly as sin, and this the father and Vox Populi can see at once is a result, a product, and they admire, and wonder, and say, "Behold what practical training can do for a boy!"

And thereupon cities and universities proceed to spend millions on equipment for practical training, and a few begrudged hundreds on books with, perhaps, for the university, a preposterous monument thrown in to fill the eye and

store the few books.

The silence of the book and the invisibility of its handiwork, these are two of our great handicaps, not to be overcome either by talking ourselves or by listening to great speakers. In spite of them, however, it is perfectly obvious that the book—and the book in the new library nomenclature means print in any form—will soon be an important factor in every bit of the world's handwork. In time we shall become those veritable print using animals which we librarians have long praised as the highest of created beings.

Here I wish to pause and tell you about three things with which I have come in touch in recent months and which perhaps give points to the facts on which my suggestion is based: to wit; the prodigious change in the print producing and the print using habit that has recently come upon us and the accompanying changes that should be made in library administration.

It has been my pleasure this summer to have a hand in the beautification of, and the work of, the county fair at Woodstock, Vermont. Among the other things which the committee I was connected with carried on, was this: They sent, at my suggestion, to about 150 state institutions and social service organizations having to do with any aspect of rural life, a circular letter asking these organizations each to send to the county fair a supply of the pamphlet literature they issue, there to be distributed. As the result of these letters we had at the county fair over a thousand pamphlets on farm life. They covered farming in general, fertilizing, fence making, care of stock, raising chickens, hygiene in the home, care of infants and many other topics. It is not too much to say that if these pamphlets had been printed in a little different form, after the manner of the conventional book, they would have formed a library of a thousand volumes of the best and latest literature on the farm and farm life. These books, or pamphlets, were displayed on shelves by kinds and distributed to all comers. So much of the literature as was not taken on these two days will be distrib-

uted by the local superintendent of schools. This is library work of a new kind.

One of the most interesting and intricate of all modern callings is that of the credit man,—the man who decides for a business house to whom credit shall be given, and for how much, and under what circumstances. To do this work wisely he must know his United States well, the character of the population in the different centers, and the character and possibilities of the industries here and there. These credit men have learned that the printed page is, above all other things, the most valuable tool they can use in acquiring the information they need. The local association in Newark has asked us to prepare a list of the best books for the use of credit men, in equipping themselves for work, and have said that they wish this list made as good as possible and that they will pay the cost of publishing the same, regardless of its length. This, again, is, perhaps, library work of a new kind.

The Associated Advertising Clubs of the World is one of the most powerful organizations of its kind. Among the many activities of this organization is the establishment of collections of books for the use of advertising men, either independent libraries or departments in public libraries. I have the good fortune to be chairman of a committee on libraries under the direction of the general committee on education of this organization and hope to be able through this position to be of assistance in promoting the acceptance by public libraries of the doctrine that library management must in some respects be notably modified to meet changing conditions in the use of print.

And here comes my practical suggestion which, as I hope you will see, draws together and makes fairly logical all that I have been saying. The suggestion is based on the fact that by far the greater part of all print today is outside the field of the conventional library; and on the further fact, partly a result of the first, that the library of today is not a very important factor in human life.

The suggestion is that you appoint a

committee or a group of committees to examine into and report upon the use of print today and the relation of the present prevailing type of public library to that use.

The printing press is pouring out a mighty stream of print. This stream is helping to turn the wheels of the machine shops of human activity. Conventional public libraries seem as tiny skiffs on this stream, and their occupants as almost solely concerned with the navigation of their respective skiffs. Or, if you prefer the figure, these libraries are as backwaters and eddies, turning flotsam and jetsam slowly round and round, with bits of treasure trove scattered here and there through the mass.

In any event, and regardless of figures good or bad, my advice is that you discover where libraries are today, what relation they bear to the world's use of prints and then to discover if you can how that relation can be made one of indispensable utility.

### Good and Bad Stories for Children

Every bookseller should know and be prepared to tell his customers some of the things that mark the difference between a good and a bad story for children. These are some of the things to bear in mind:

No older person should give to a child a book that he has not read or does not know all about. One should not be deceived by low price, attractive cover, or the fact that the boy or girl is eager for the book.

Ask yourself as you read the book:

- Does the story lay unnecessary stress on villainy, deception or treachery among young people?
- Are all of its incidents wholesome and probable and true to life?
- Does it show young people contemptuous towards their elders and successfully opposing them?
- Do the young people in the book show respect for teachers and others in authority?
- Are the characters in the story the kind of young people you would choose as companions for the children you love?
- Does the book describe pranks, practical jokes and pieces of thoughtless and cruel mischief as though they were funny and worthy of imitation?
- Is the English good and the story written in good style?

If, instead of pushing cheap, false and sensational stories, the bookseller will do his best to urge the sale of the right kind of books, he can build up among his juvenile customers a class of real booklovers and main support of his business.—*The Penn Publishing Co. leaflet.*

### High School Libraries of California\*

Ella S. Morgan, Lincoln high school, Los Angeles, Cal.

By a glance backward to the year 1903 it may be seen that the high school library has developed rapidly and become the absolute necessity to the whole institution that the laboratory is to its science department.

In January of that year the first high school librarian in the west was appointed to fill the position in the Los Angeles high school, and thus began the movement in California. There were then, according to the report of the state superintendent of schools, 143 high schools owning 70,997 library books. In 1915 (12 years later) there are 33 librarians (of these 27 are giving full time, 6 are teaching or performing other school work part time, and 4 are assistants in the larger schools). Two hundred and forty-one high schools own libraries containing a total of more than 340,000 books, not including current periodicals, newspapers and pamphlets.

California comes very near leading all other states in number of high school librarians. Each year sees more new appointments, for high school faculties are learning how greatly may their work be augmented by a librarian-member of the faculty, working with them. The demand for persons of special fitness and training for these positions has recently caused the library training schools to give special attention to this important branch of library endeavor. In the University of California library course this summer lectures were given by a high school librarian. The Los Angeles public library and Riverside public library training schools have done the same for a year or more past. The former is giving this year's class actual practice work in a high school library. This is a long step in the right direction, though really successful work is only done by mature and experienced persons. The problem of the smaller full time seems prohibitive, is being

solved by Orange, Corona, Lemoore and Alameda, as Minnesota is solving it, by the employment of librarians who are also teachers and give time to both professions. It is a splendid arrangement, provided a fair share of time is given to the library. Each year several high school teachers have taken the summer library course in the University of California, in order to further prepare for this work.

Though in the past 12 years the number of high school library books per pupil has increased from 4 to only 6, the fact that now these books are *used*, whereas they were formerly, in many schools, only *stored*, indicates that in reality the increase of books per pupil is very much greater than figures can show. There can be no doubt that the high school librarians have wrought the change. Statistics of the libraries administered by librarians show an average daily circulation to pupils' homes of more than 150 books and magazines. Use *in* the library, perhaps the most important feature of the work, is limited only by seating capacity, even though the rule is that pupils must go to the study halls unless they need to use library books! In a school of 2,200 pupils, such as Manual Arts in Los Angeles, whose library seats 125, fully 1,000 pupils use the library daily—many of them referring to several books. As statistics of such use are quite impossible to keep, we librarians are wont to say, "We can seat so many, and the chairs are usually all taken, during the school day and for an hour each before and after." As a matter of fact, the librarian not infrequently finds it necessary to decide between two claimants for the same chair—to decide who's work is the most imperative.

Those indispensables, magazines and their guides, are provided in most of the libraries. One of the oldest schools receives 60 periodicals, and has a collection of some 800 bound magazines, dating many of them as far back as 1900. Several schools have more than 600 miscellaneous pamphlets, while all own some and several of them numerous government documents and reports of city and

\*Read before Library department, N. E. A., Oakland, Cal., August 24, 1915.

state officials. Newspaper clippings, as well as whole articles from the magazines whose entire contents are not desirable in a school, are frequently covered, classified and cataloged. Collections of pictures are owned by many of the libraries; photographs, lantern slides (one school owns about 750 of these), stereographs, and postcards are used. Any sort of pictorial reproduction which can be used with the Balopticon to illustrate are, industry, travel, etc., etc., are gathered and often classified and cataloged. An Oakland librarian is successfully using dolls dressed to illustrate historical periods.

Instruction in use of books and the library is now given, I believe, in all the schools having librarians. Some lectures are graded and accompanied by practice work involving use of the catalog, *Reader's Guide*, encyclopedias and other aids. Pupils are usually taken in groups to the library where the talk can be graphically illustrated. This, and the regular use of the library required in daily preparation of lessons, is giving high school pupils knowledge which is bearing fruit in college and out. Academic instruction in library methods is given in 8 or 10 schools. Pupils are thereby given an opportunity to learn whether or not they care to go to a library school for training in librarianship. Usually one or two periods a day are required in this "library work" course, for which graduation credits are given. Several positions are now filled by young women who first learned their aptitude for the work in this way. It is a vocational try-out as well as of cultural value. One librarian is going quite thoroughly into book-binding with her class, several rely very greatly on their pupils for necessary assistance in the routine work of the library. Two of the Los Angeles high schools are used by summer sessions and evening schools. In the evening, people of the neighborhood are also welcomed. Several high schools in country districts likewise offer the privileges of the library to the towns-people. The advantage taken of this is largely for reference use

rather than for circulation, as necessarily the class of books in the high school library does not appeal to the average reader.

About 75 high schools are receiving benefit of county library service in greater or lesser degree. Many of the county libraries are new with plans yet to be carried out. Even now, however, all the active ones are loaning some books to high schools. In several places collections are deposited in the school. The girls' high school of Riverside receives most of its books from the county, having agreed to turn over all its book money in exchange for service, though the librarian's salary is paid by the school. In Solano the county library is located in the high school building, rent free, with shelves, tables and chairs provided by the school. The library books owned by the school are retained by it and are to be classified and cataloged by the county librarian. Doubtless recent legislation will result in more contracts between schools and county libraries which will benefit both until such time as school authorities can supply librarians or librarian-teachers for every school.

The Association of city school librarians of Los Angeles, with a membership of 14, has during its two years of existence helped to increase the efficiency of its members and benefited them personally. Recently the librarians have been granted a salary schedule such as the teachers work under. The interest of other high school librarians in the state led to the request that the Los Angeles association be reorganized into a state association. As the number of high school librarians has about doubled since 1912 and new appointments are being rapidly made, such an organization has a great opportunity for increasing the efficiency of the high school libraries throughout the state, and encouraging the establishment of new ones which shall be planned, equipped and administered according to modern library methods and ideals.



### A High School Reference Course

Outline of an eight weeks' course in reference work given by the librarian of a small town library to the high school pupils in the Fall of 1914 and 1915:

Time required, one recitation period and one study period of thirty-five minutes each per week. Recitation period at the school, study period at the library.

#### Reference Work

1. Value and scope.
2. Points to be noticed in the study of reference books.

- a—Name of book.
- b—Editor or editors.
- c—Publisher or publishers.
- d—Date of publication.
- e—Number of volumes.
- f—Brief summary of contents.
- g—Arrangement.

3. Reference books studied, bringing out the points listed in No. 2 were as follows:

- Bailey—Cyclopedia of American horticulture.
- Bartlett—Familiar quotations.
- Brewer—Dictionary of phrase and fable.
- Brewer—Historic note-book.
- Brewer—Reader's handbook.
- Century atlas of the world.
- Century dictionary.
- Century cyclopedia of names.
- Champlin—Young folks' cyclopedia of common things.
- Champlin—Young folks' cyclopedia of games and sports.
- Champlin—Young folks' cyclopedia of persons and places.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica (Eleventh edition).
- Granger—An index to poetry and recitations.
- Grove—Dictionary of music and musicians.
- Lippincott's New Gazetteer.
- National cyclopedia of American biography.
- New International encyclopedia.
- Parsons—Laws of business.
- Poole's index. (Abridged.)
- Rand, McNally—Indexed atlas of the world.
- Reader's guide to periodical literature.
- Stedman and Hutchinson—Library of American literature.
- Who's who.
- Who's who in America.

Note books were kept containing information about each book according to outlines in No. 2. One lesson was given on the card catalog and the arrangement of the books in the library.

This course has been given for three years. Pupils are given credit for work accomplished and are marked as in other studies.

### Statistics Again

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Do you know any good reason for keeping statistics of circulation by classes? Is the information ever used? Is it of sufficient value to justify the time spent upon it?

Will you not ask this question in your magazine, so we may know the reply?

We have kept these statistics faithfully for years and every year I ask "what for?"

Sincerely yours,

MARY FRANCES ISOM,

Portland, Oregon.

Librarian.

### How Is This?

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The Autumn Book Sale list of Himebaugh & Browne and Clearance catalog, No. 39, of the Charles W. Clark Company, both of New York City, offer for sale at \$0.35 per volume certain of the publications of the Bay View Reading Club of Detroit, including among others James Bryce's *South America*, listed by Himebaugh as "Macmillan, 1914," and by Clark as "Revised ed., 1914." Nothing is said in either list to indicate that the text is incomplete.

But as a matter of fact the Bay View Reading Club edition consists of XXII+453 p. as against XXIV+611 p. in the regular trade edition. The preface, introduction and the first eleven chapters appear to be page for page the same. Chapter thirteen of the trade edition forms the twelfth chapter of the Reading Club edition, and chapters twelve, fourteen, fifteen

and sixteen of the trade edition as well as the notes, index and maps are omitted entirely. As far as I have been able to discover there is nothing in the Reading Club volume to indicate that the text has been cut. The title-page bears the inscription "Published for the Bay View Reading Club, Central Office, Boston Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, by The Macmillan Company," and the copyright notices are the same.

HAROLD L. LEUPP.

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I wish to call the attention of librarians to the work which has just been put on the market, title page dated 1915, entitled "With the world's people," by Ridpath.

This is the same, page for page, as Ridpath's History of the world. The agent represented to me that it was a new work and not continued in the History of the world.

Yours very sincerely,

HENRY O. SEVERANCE,

Librarian.

University of Missouri,  
November 29, 1915.

### The Story Puzzle

Since it is the policy of librarians to be helpful, may I offer to my librarian friends a suggestion for an interesting experiment for their young people?

The reading of the story-puzzle taxes the memory, encourages the use of the card catalog, and helps to associate the author of book with its title. The story-puzzle is written with connecting words between titles of books on the library shelves, and preferably familiar titles. The author's name is given, followed by a blank for the correct title, the one suitable to the connected reading of the story to be filled in by the would-be reader.

For example: "The hero of our story, whom we will call (Locke, Wm. J.) ..... felt that (Churchill, Winston) ..... in his affairs had come when he met (Thompson, Maurice)

....., a former neighbor, who was traveling with her (Norris, Kathleen) ..... , etc."

A set of questions, similar to those used in the library game, may be added if the experiment were to be a test of knowledge rather than "just for fun."

C. A. HAVEN,

Librarian.

River Forest, Ill.

### Books for Peace Promotion

In a correspondence with Dr Jordan, the eminent educator as well as apostle of international peace, he writes as follows on the kind of books that will help make for peace:

It seems to me that libraries might—out of the multitude of war books, select those which are truthful and to the point. Truth is the main weapon for peace.

Dr John Mez, Colorado building, Washington, has now in press a most useful bibliography of these books. I have in press (Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis) a book, "Ways to lasting peace," which gives an analysis of the chief movements. Dr. Edward B. Krenibel of Stanford University has also a syllabus and bibliography which will be most helpful.

I shall be glad if I can be of any further service in enlisting the libraries in the subject of real peace.

Very truly yours,

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

Stanford.

### Medical Library Interests

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Apropos of your notice of Miss Jones' reprints, it may be well to notice that the *Modern Hospital* for November also had an article by Mrs Meyers of the Massachusetts general hospital on Medical libraries in hospitals. The Massachusetts hospital has one of the best medical libraries in the country. Mrs Meyers' paper will undoubtedly be a good one. papers are always stimulating and to the point.

OBSERVER.

A comprehensive bibliography of the social survey has been published by the Russell Sage Foundation library, as Bulletin No. 14. It is compiled by Zenas L. Potter, of the Department of surveys and exhibits.

### Inter-Library References

It is the writer's practice to use red cards to indicate that a book or serial is to be found in some other library than his own. Thus far perhaps a dozen such cards have been written, and it makes the nucleus of what may prove to be in the future the information bureau idea attached to the library. Why should not every public library in the country have cards showing where to find publications available in the community? Perhaps almost all do. If so, what is the usual way of making a note? Ours is a plain card reading, for example, as follows:

**Blue Book Textile Directory.** (Gives information on mills in U. S. and Canada.)  
(This may be seen at Lockwood, Greene & Co.'s, 60 Federal Street.)

The business man when he desires a book that will help him on commercial affairs wants to get it, whether the library has it or some institution or individual. The same man when he goes home and desires to read Chaucer's "Canterbury tales" also wants to get that, whether the library has it or it is available elsewhere. So it would seem to me that the up-to-date library should have a catalog not only of its own resources, but those of the community. What is the danger in this, and what are the limitations?

G. W. LEE.

Boston, Mass.

### The Springfield Survey

The library in "The public schools of Springfield, Illinois" is dealt with as follows in the chapter on "The high school":

This year the school spent \$500 for new books for the school library. Each teacher ordered the books that she considered desirable without consulting with the librarian and so far as can be ascertained without any real consultation with anyone. The librarian did not know what books were to be added to the library until they were unpacked or placed on the shelves. This is typical of the spirit that pervades the entire institution.

In connection with the work of the library, it may be said that much better results would be obtained if a trained librarian

were employed, subject and author card indexes installed, and the children trained in the use of the indexes. At present the library consists of 2,700 books and the information concerning them is mostly carried in the librarian's head. As a result the pupils get no training in making or using reference indexes.

In the chapter on "Educational extension" is the following on schools as branch libraries:

The public library coöperates with the schools by supplying selected sets of books for use by the pupils. This coöperation may well be extended. There are at present eight branch libraries in the schools while in three of the other buildings there are libraries of considerable size and importance belonging to the schools. In some of the large cities the superintendent of schools is ex-officio a member of the library board and through this arrangement the coöperation between the schools and the library is greatly facilitated. The same result could be brought about in Springfield if the board of directors of the library should voluntarily make a similar arrangement.

E. G. R.

### Death of E. L. Preetorius of St. Louis

Edward Louis Preetorius, the senior member of the St. Louis public library board, in point of service, died in St. Louis on November 1. The following resolutions were adopted by the Library board at its regular meeting on November 5:

*Resolved:* That the Directors of the St. Louis public library record their profound regret at the death of Edward Louis Preetorius, who was a member of the Library board from its creation in 1893 to his death, and during all that time zealously and wisely performed the duties of his position.

His influence did much to establish the library on its present basis and enable it to give the people of this city the benefits which come from easy access to the writings of good and great men and women.

He was always true to the spirit and traditions of his distinguished father. The daily papers which he published deservedly ranked among the very first in this country in elevation of tone and freedom from all lowering influences.

He was wise in counsel, gentle but firm, very sympathetic when in accord, and differed without a trace of bitterness.

A dutiful son, devoted husband, loving father, faithful friend and public-spirited citizen, he will long be held in affectionate and grateful memory.

*Resolved Further:* That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family.

### Publicity Work for A. L. A.

Some interesting points in the report of Mr Kerr, chairman of the Publicity committee for the year 1915 to date, were of interest. The duty of the committee was understood to be to obtain all newspaper and magazine publicity for the Berkeley conference. Letters were sent to editors of leading periodicals of serious mind, asking for publication of the date and place of the conference. Seven of these used the material. The response from the sections and affiliated organizations of the A. L. A., asking for advance information were slow and generally meager, but the Associated press and the Exposition press bureau accepted whatever was sent and copies of several papers, together with photographs, were in their hands before the meeting.

Of the papers asked to use articles prepared by librarians one, the *Christian Science Monitor*, failed to answer; three, the *Independent*, *Journal of Education* and *Kansas City Star* expressed inability to use such articles and six, *American*, *City*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Dial*, *Nation*, *School and Society* and *Survey* invited such articles. The cordial and effective assistance of the members of the staff of the University of California is gratefully acknowledged in the report. The service of the Record-News syndicate was accurate and prompt. Copies of papers, abstracts, lists of officers, of committees, reports, photographs, etc., were furnished the local papers, questions were answered and cordial co-operation was manifest. Special acknowledgement is made to Mr Schuster, representing the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Oakland Tribune* and Miss Andrews of the *Berkeley Gazette*. In the papers of the three bay cities, there was little more than 36 columns from May 31 to June 10. In the main, this material was accurate and comprehensive. Mr Evans of the Associated press stated that he had put on the wire an average of 600 words a day of A. L. A. material. The amount of material published in the newspapers of the country was, however, disappointing. So far as is known, a total of

twenty articles appeared. The total cost for the work in connection with the Berkeley conference was \$180.75. Many interesting details on the side were included in the report.

The suggestions for the future were as follows: 1. Reorganize so that stenographic help will be all the outside help necessary; 2. Divide the work at conference time under the direction of the chairman of the committee in at least three parts with a man in charge of each: a. Separate articles and summarize reports to be sent to the home papers of conference members for local leads; b. Advance abstracts to be insisted upon and to be sent with local leads to states interested in the given speaker or topic to be released on the date of its appearance on the program; c. The same preparation and material for local newspapers and associated press as used at Berkeley.

The committee should be active throughout the year for which it is appointed.

In speaking of publicity through the advertising and printed matter, the report states:

"The foregoing takes no account of the valuable possibilities in coöperative publication of posters, lists, envelope enclosures, street car advertisement cards, and other printed matter; neither does it consider the interesting possibilities of an advisory publicity bureau for American libraries. It is suggested by the present committee that the proposal of the Pacific Northwest library association might be tried out by the A. L. A., Publicity committee assigning this work to a special member of the committee. The present committee believes that a permanent publicity officer of the American Library Association, working along the lines suggested above, would more than earn his salary, almost from the first, in the enlarged incomes from local libraries, in increased membership in the A. L. A., and in the savings accruing from coöperative printing."—From Report in *A. L. A. Bulletin*.

## Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

**The year that has gone**—How shall we read over the record of the year? How shall we tell the bead on which hung the important petition? Has the work to which so many have given, literally, their lives advanced to the betterment of conditions, has it stood still or has it slipped back? We are too near at this time to tell. So many factors enter in to add their color to the decision that one must wait for clearing, or at least more settlement, to pass fair judgment.

There can be no question of the sincerity and devotion to be seen among the bulk of the multitude. But sometimes, one sees so clearly the lack of it, here and there, in high places, that the result is a confused impression. It is only by remembering "the eternal years of God" instead of the present view that one sees really the "exactness of it all."

Some things stand out for one rea-

son or another as marks of activity, going forward or not, only time will show. The A. L. A. went to California for its annual meeting. The trip was most delightful, the Fair was a joy, the hosts of the occasion were hospitable to the extreme. Officially, the disturbing precedent was broken; for the second time in 40 years, a woman was elected president. The request for the consideration of a revision of the constitution was again ignored by the Executive board and the Council.

The recognition of the educational value of the library was emphasized by increased attention in the several conferences held by teachers of English and librarians both East and West. The "Safety first" week brought home to a large number of parents their duty to shield their children from mental as well as physical deterioration. The Reading circle work planned by the U. S. Bureau of education gives more reason for the existence of such an office than has been evident to most people before. The Library of Congress passed its one hundredth birthday full of honor and increased usefulness.

The occasion of Mr. Brett's thirtieth anniversary in the service of the Cleveland public library was fittingly observed to the hopefulness—or despair—of others who may be approaching a like culmination—or have already passed it.

On the opposite sides of the continent, two beautiful library buildings have been erected; the Widener memorial at Harvard university and the Provincial library building at Victoria, B. C. In addition a large number of less imposing buildings were erected.

The thing for which the Illinois libraries are devoutly thankful was the



passage of the law permitting increased revenue for libraries in this state. Already increased energy and interest are manifest, because of the better prospects.

Death has had its toll of the library field in the passing of E. S. Wilcox, of Illinois, John Edmands, of Philadelphia, and Dr. G. T. Little, of Maine. All of these were veterans in the library field, who had rendered good service in their day.

"The roll of honor" in other countries is growing with a heart-breaking steadiness as library workers in the prime of life, or just beginning their careers, are being killed in the awful "slaughter of the innocents" going on in foreign lands. Those who are left here and everywhere should bend their utmost energy to make impossible another war between human beings.

**The new year**—This is the first number in a new volume, a new year, a new decade. What has been done is only a foreshadowing of what is to come. But the real hard work in educational service has been done—that is, the enlightenment of the general public as to what library effort means. From ocean to ocean, from the North to the South, it has made its way in some form, doing an abundant work for everyone where it offers first-class service. When it does not, of course, it comes near being a hollow mockery. But, fortunately, such places are becoming fewer in number and less incapable as the tide of library intelligence is reaching higher. Trustees and better informed citizens are asking questions and making uncomfortable comparisons and where there is the right material, the situation is experiencing betterment, and where it is too dead to take on new life, it is being removed. And

so it is a different matter now to make a library "go" from what it was 20 years ago. The public's comprehension is clearer as are the ideals of librarians. Greater intelligent interest on the part of all concerned is manifest almost everywhere. Therefore, the work of the future will be simply moving forward over the well defined road that has been marked out by the lifework of those who bore the burdens of pioneers and who made possible, by their devotion, their hard work and clear foresight, the splendid things that are to come hereafter.

**The place of the library**—As will be seen by the various contributions to this number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, the library is being increasingly considered in various lines as an important factor in the plans for successfully carrying on the activities in which the world's people find themselves engaged. What has been written or said or done along the lines of endeavor has a place in the consideration of people's lives in their various ramifications. What it may be worth to those interested no one but those most concerned can say, but the fact remains that the printed page, whatever its contents, is of value in the world's work.

That this is so has a bearing on the new attitude of many school people and some librarians in the common belief that the public library is an adjunct of the public schools. So it is, but it is also an adjunct of a number of other things, and those in charge of it should be very wary of giving to the school authorities an undue amount of leverage in conducting library affairs, for they have long been known as over-zealous in appropriating authority and privilege when they touch interests outside their own legitimate line.

This does not mean that library work with school children and teachers is not an important, a very important part of the library's activities, but it must not absorb all the interest and must not shut out those seekers after knowledge who are not of the school population.

### A Library Interpreter

Not long ago a trustee of ours suggested as one of the needs in a library the presence of some one who would correspond, in a general way, to the man "on the floor" in a business establishment. Some one, that is, who made it his work to direct and guide purchasers and see that their needs were met. This gentleman was a business man by training and he had seen the benefits which accrued from such a practice in business.

Is the plan, with amplifications, applicable to libraries? It seems worthy of very careful consideration in the light of present day needs.

Let us, if we can, translate it into library terms. We often wonder why our books remain unread. There is no lack of books, no lack of willing service, and no lack of well-prepared lists. What we do often need is something that shall vitalize the books and establish some form of communication, so to speak, between the author and reader. Every book worth while has a message to convey to many readers but the volumes remain too often inert because the reading of them rests on accidental things. To animate our books and to bring them to the attention and understanding of readers is surely as important as to have them. The suggestion has been made that a librarian should spend 50 per cent of his time outside library walls. The idea has much to commend it. But an assistant within the library capable of guiding and helping a reader in the right choice of books and whose primary duty would be to do this would go further. He could add intelligent direction to the impulse to read. We cannot be content with the haphazard choices that readers often make or the fleeting and hurried suggestions that are given in the intervals of other work. To correct the selections and apportion more time for aiding readers in a direct, personal way, offers a fruitful field not perhaps for faultless work but for endeavor. It is not altogether a counsel of perfection either. Most of

us depend more often than we realize on the recommendation of others for an acquaintance with books. For the library to undertake such work in a systematic and sympathetic way would vastly enrich the field of library work. The person selected to do it would, if well chosen, become indispensable to reader and library alike.

The problem of the selection of books is difficult enough for the librarian who has at his command innumerable aids. How much more puzzling to the casual reader who is engrossed for the most part with totally different things and who looks to books at intervals for entertainment or profit.

We do not always adopt the point of view of the reader or rather we often cannot under the hurried conditions of our work acquaint ourselves with his needs and preferences. Some one who could give his time especially to this problem would, we must be convinced, make for more intelligent and intensive service. Such a person could move freely among readers finding out their likes and their special problems. He could even map out courses of reading. He could certainly prevent them from getting the inappropriate book. When confronted with an array of books an inexperienced reader really has very little on which to base a choice. He would readily come to accept the suggestions, if wisely given, of some one at his elbow who knew the resources of the library and something of the contents of the books.

The chief objection to be raised against such a plan would be the financial one. How can we justify the plan?

First, the need for more work in this direction exists and secondly we are not adequately meeting it.

The adult reader is left, in large part, to shift for himself. We assume that he knows what he wants or can get it. Is this actually the case? The mere externals too often guide in the selection of books. A volume looks heavy, the print is small, the illustrations do not seem attractive or a dozen other things may keep a reader from

selecting a thoroughly good and readable book. He is left to flounder about in a mass of material which he has neither the inclination nor the time to examine carefully. It is a practical problem of much moment if the reader is in search of material along some specific or technical line. It is more important in such instances that the reader should secure the book of positive value than when he is reading for entertainment only. In any case the library can well extend all the help it can offer if it wishes to prevent reading from becoming a purely formal proceeding.

Freedom, then, to consult the books is not sufficient. To do what a library can wisely, patiently and inoffensively by way of suggesting books and topics for reading would seem to be a necessary accompaniment to freedom of access. Bulletins and lists we often find elaborately annotated. Do we give the equivalent of this annotation when the lists are not at hand?

Such service would be far from simple to perform. The person delegated to the work would need to employ all the skill of the salesman without, of course, making use of the commercial aim. The work would call, first of all, for knowledge. This would necessarily be a surface knowledge of many things and many books. It would call, however, for wide reading, an acquaintance with literature and a willingness to keep informed on the more important happenings in the world at large. The person so interpreting the library resources would at once be a teacher and tireless student. He would be in time the counsellor and friend of many a reader.

It would call for discretion. Anything that smacked of condescension or compulsion would be fatal to the success of the work.

It would call for affability. To be able to place the right books in the hands of readers when they need them most and to do this without meeting with resentment would be the lubricant needed to make the service a success.

And finally, it would call for patience. The person who carried on the work would expect many a rebuff, many a failure to get immediate results but one would in time have the satisfaction of directing reading along desirable lines and securing a reading for many books too often left unread.

FRANK H. WHITMORE.

Brockton, Mass.

### The Safety First Exhibit of the New Haven Public Library

Early in the month of November the library had an offer from the Industrial department of the Y. M. C. A. of the loan of the United States Steel Corporation Safety exhibit.

Inasmuch as the Safety First movement is largely one related to industries it was quite logical that the planning and general direction of the enlarged exhibit should be undertaken by the technology department. Such was the case.

With the hearty cooperation of Mr A. B. Dickson, Industrial secretary of the Y. M. C. A., and formerly with the Y. M. C. A. in the Canal Zone, plans were laid for the enlarged exhibit.

A careful survey of the field and well directed inquiries soon brought in valuable material. As a result of the campaign over forty firms, covering a wide range of industries, sent material, either as a gift or a loan.

In general the exhibit has been arranged by subject covering safety on steam railroads, street railroads, the exhibits of the National Safety council, U. S. Steel Corporation, safety in machine and industrial shops, miscellaneous, highway, safety and children, automobile devices, elevator safety, and a general table devoted to literature of the subject.

Naturally much of the material is in the form of photographs and posters. However, there were many pieces of apparatus. A special demonstration was held on one of the nights showing the working of the pulmotor. Window cleaning devices, automobile safety devices, a special electrical fuse,

sanitary drinking fountains, safety belt shifters, and safety treads, and non-slip horseshoes.

The library hopes and expects to act as a clearing house of information in relation to safety in the future and to that end much literature has been gathered. From the gifts to this exhibit a permanent museum similar to those already established in Europe and this country, is planned for the coming year. These museums of safety have done wonderful work in the conservation of human life in Germany and Belgium. Inasmuch as the present library and the library of the future more so, is to be not only a collector of printed information, but a clearing house of information, there is no reason why a library should not undertake such a plan.

Already requests have come from different sources for this exhibit. One from the chief motorman of the street railway company has expressed the wish that we take suitable material from this exhibit and send it around to the various cities in this state. It is quite likely that there will be a suitable exhibit of posters made up to send around to libraries interested. For mechanical devices and the obtaining of same, information will accompany the traveling exhibit.

To make anything a success publicity is needed. To that end the Y. M. C. A. industrial department had several hundred invitations printed up and these were mailed to people of importance and others were distributed freely among the shops and car houses. The New Haven *Sunday Union* gave a splendid write-up and published with the article two photographs taken of the exhibit. All visitors to the exhibit were good advertisers. The vice-president of the street railway company very kindly consented to our request to have a suitable sign placed on the cars relating to the safety movement. Signs were placed on suitable vestibule windows worded as follows: "Be Careful, Safety, Always Wait Until This Car

Stops." The vice-president further added to our request by offering of his own free will to put special posters on the dashboards. This was done. The library's branch windows were utilized for this purpose of advertising. Duplicate material from the main exhibit was placed in the window for the week.

Whether or not this exhibit has been a success in numbers we have no way of knowing. Suffice to say that as one man of this city said, "If this exhibit has been the means of saving one life it will have accomplished no small task."

KENNETH C. WALKER.

### Traveling Library Work in Factory and Store

The factory and the store offer a great opportunity for traveling library work. Perhaps of all the various fields of traveling library activity—police department, fire department, schools, churches, clubs and associations, and steamships—in none can be performed such effective, needed and valuable service as in this work with the industrial and commercial concerns. The reason for this can readily be seen in the character of our modern industry, for the great mass of workers now merely operate machines, a process which does not require much mental activity but merely alertness of hand and quickness of eye. Likewise in the store, the worker is reduced to a mere cog in the machine. To counteract this deadening condition is a role which the library can play and is playing by giving ideas and inspiration to the workers through the medium of books.

Moreover, the traveling library is well adapted for this work. It can go direct to the employees of factory and store; it can take the employees as an isolated class and concentrate attention on their particular needs; it can become an effective tool for the social worker in carrying on her welfare work.

At first, the management is not always favorably disposed towards the idea of traveling libraries. They do not

turn the offer down, they are anxious to help their employees, but they seem to foresee so many obstacles—danger of damage to books, responsibility for their care, possible burden of keeping records. It is here that the traveling library canvasser must be in a measure a traveling salesman and persuade the manager or superintendent that traveling libraries are a "good line of stock to carry." And that these managers and superintendents can be convinced is seen in the fact that the industrial and commercial concerns are taking advantage of the privilege in ever increasing numbers. In Brooklyn alone, there are now about forty such borrowing organizations obtaining traveling libraries regularly; and a representative list they are—department stores, glove factory, shoe factory, wholesale order houses, machine shops, paper box factories and even candy factories.

Traveling library methods have been made so simple that even a worker in the factory or store can be appointed custodian and carry on the work easily and successfully. In other cases, it is the nurse or the paid social worker who has charge of the books, and in still other instances, trained library assistants are sent to lend books to the employees during the noon hour.

The main question, however, is "What use do the employees make of the books?" Normally, the great demand is for light fiction and this is not to be wondered at when we consider the education of the workers, their home conditions and their working conditions, improved as they are under this humanitarianism in industry. But there are encouraging signs. Some employees have realized in a measure the true value of books and are requesting books to help them in their work, books to give them ideas and inspiration. Here is the great opportunity of the traveling library. Besides sending its boxes of books, it must do some educating work, it must devise plans whereby intelligent use can be made of the books. The employees should be made to know the good books and ap-

preciate the value of real literature—a difficult task, of course, but it can be done.

Talks to the employees by speakers who love and know books and who can present their subject attractively, that is one way. Annotated lists, not too long, and striking posters, that is another way of accomplishing the purpose. Still again, and this is in many ways the most hopeful, is the cooperation of the welfare worker at the factory and the store. Coming in such close contact with the workers, she naturally acquires great influence over them and her opportunity for counseling good reading is unbounded. There is, therefore, every reason to suppose that with the growth of humanitarianism in industry that greater and greater use will be made of the traveling library as one of the means of counteracting the effects of a machine age upon the worker.

RALPH DUNBAR.

Public library, Brooklyn, N. Y.

#### Advertising for Readers

The library at the National Cash Register Company contains a large number of books dealing with efficiency, scientific management and new business methods. The company was anxious to get these books into circulation.

So a digest was made, in pyramid bulletin form, of Frederick W. Taylor's *Principles of scientific management*, and this was hung in the center of one of the big plate glass library windows. Suspended from it was a small card carrying the titles of other books dealing with similar subject matter.

This advertising accomplished its purpose. Employees were able to read the digest almost at a glance. It made them want to read the book. Soon the efficiency books were circulating at a rapid rate.

Due to the fortunate situation of the N. C. R. library, there are unusual



opportunities for window advertising. The library is located in an arcade which bisects the main floor of the office building at Dayton, Ohio. The side facing the arcade is built entirely of plate glass.

This gives the library several show windows of which due advantage is taken. For instance, in one window a rack has been installed, in which all new books are placed for at least a week. Alongside there is usually a poster on which the paper covers of the new books are displayed.

Whenever a magazine article is published, to which it is desired to call the attention of the employees, a poster is prepared and placed in the window. Collier's recently contained an article entitled "Running a modern town." It described the city-manager plan of government in effect in Dayton. The cover and the first page of the article were immediately placed in the window.

The library has always made a special point of answering questions for employees. Many of these are of a technical nature and require considerable research; others can be answered by referring the questioner to a single book. By encouraging the asking of questions and advertising that the library is prepared to tackle any problem, a large number of employees are induced to come to the library who might otherwise remain away. A poster was used as one means of giving publicity to the information bureau.

Another means of drawing visitors into the library which has proved effective is a large bulletin board, which has been placed near the entrance. Each week the best photo reproductions from the newspaper supplements are placed on this board. Practically all current events are thus illustrated. The value of this board as a drawing card is exceptional. By placing books, dealing with the subjects treated pictorially, in a rack nearby, many new readers have been obtained.

WILLIAM A. FEATHER.

### Library Work with Children\*

A teacher in an evening school for boys had trouble with noise and lack of attention until he decided to promise to read aloud a story after the lesson was finished. His first story was "Little Jarvis." After that he had no trouble. An orphan boy became interested in electricity, found books to help him in the library, grew up a successful man and a fine Boy Scout leader. The canny librarian is able to lead the boy from nickle-novels through Indian stories to Cooper and Parkman. An athletic club was formed, and the library printed and distributed a list of sport books. The captain of the club read this list, and said to his gang, "You go to the library and get those books, and mind you, whatever you do, you *play fair!*" These books were probably his first introduction to that ideal of playing fair. In a Jewish quarter, a branch library was started in a cellar, and a club formed, called the "Hero club." All sorts and kinds of heroes were studied. When they took up Father Damien, reports at home interested the parents so much that they came to see his picture. This shows the breaking down of religious prejudice. A boys' drama club rented a cellar for meetings; invited the librarian to see a play. It was cheap, of course. She asked them first if they wouldn't like to meet in the library where they could have a room free. Later when she knew them better she helped them select plays; these gradually improved in quality; now the club is a member of the Drama league and has received several gold medals.

A girls' club to read plays and operas was formed by a librarian. The girls had been going to movies only. Soon they asked to be taken to good plays, and saved up their dimes for these. A library may help to change and raise the standards of home living,—oil-cloth

\*From an address by Miss Clara W. Hunt, director of the children's department of the Brooklyn public library, N. Y., at Burlington, Vt., October 22, 1915.

giving place to table-cloth, etc. A library roused to life the interest of several girls in education, and persuaded them to attend night school. It teaches cleanliness in the children's department, also good citizenship by prompt payment of fines.

As for the matter of children's reading, the fathers and mothers are responsible; they must start the babies right; home training is most important. A graded series leading to interest in history and travel is Dutchy doings, Dutch twins by Perkins (50c), Hans Brinker by Dodge (illus., \$1.50, or \$2.50 by Edwards), Black tulip and Burgomaster's wife by Dumas (50c), Prince and the pauper by Twain (\$1.50), Joan of Arc by B  t  t de Monvel, a book of beautiful pictures with text (\$3.50), Pyle's Men of iron and Otto of the silver hand (\$2 each), Yonge's Dove in the eagle's nest (50c). For Italy a series is Pinocchio by Colodi (50c), Prince and his ants by Vamba (\$1.50), Peeps at Rome and at Italy by Genn and Finnemore respectively (65c each), God's troubadour (St. Francis of Assisi) by Jewett (\$1.25).

Children under 10 should have the following read aloud to them: Water babies and The heroes by Kingsley, Alice's adventures in wonderland by Carroll, Fighting a fire by Hill, Ingersoll's Book of the ocean, Macaulay's Lays of ancient Rome, story of Siegfried, Kipling's Jungle books, Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare, Hawthorne's Wonderbook, Grimm's Fairy tales, the Arabian nights.

Adults should try to keep or get the child's point of view. Read S. M. Crother's essay on "The ignominy of being grown up." The child's imagination should be encouraged. He is "a good little animal, free from disease and with senses wide open."

*Thinkers* don't grow on Barbour, "Little colonel series," The Rosary, Graustark, &c. Children started right will find the mediocre book too insipid. Don't choose a book that is of "no particular harm," but one of "some par-

ticular good." And in selecting children's books, look for and insist on breadth of interest, variety of experience, a rich vocabulary, high and pure ideals, and imagination.

### At Work for the Belgians

Mr Ralph Gossage, a junior in the library school of New York public library, who gave up his work temporarily to go to the front, writes from Holland, where he is helping in a camp of Belgian refugees, mostly women and children, under the auspices of the War Victims' Relief committee of the Society of Friends. He says:

The only service open to me was in Holland, in service of Friends' War victims' relief committee for Belgians. So here I am at Uden, a camp of five thousand homeless Belgians. Fifteen hundred of these are children. The Danish government has provided cottages for them. These houses are collapsible and will be taken by Belgians into their own country when the war ceases.

Our work is largely directing and beginning crafts of all sorts. Four women workers and two men workers for so large a camp find themselves very busy. The Belgians are like children. Today, I completed a mat-weaving loom and succeeded in getting two men trained into its use. Other machines will be built when this model has proved itself. Our broom and brush-making is getting on well. We have several fair-sized orders for brushes placed in military camps in Holland and with concerns in England. Toys have begun to take shape,—clowns, French poodles, funny little pigs, a large engine; many varieties of dolls lend a charm to our great work-rooms. The women do many very remarkable bits of work. Old garments are transformed into many useful smaller articles.

There are many interesting features in the arrangement of this great camp out here among the canals and windmills. The camp is well arranged into all the divisions found in a small city. Here you have post offices, church, hospital, stores where points (paper money) are currency, and a theatre which is run by the Belgians, general schools, one technical school, and several clubs. The Flemish language in rather its lower form is spoken; some few speak French. The camp is really a military camp. A very proper Dutch colonel acts as bourgomaster. He is very much pleased with the work done with these people. This is one of four such camps in Holland and is probably the largest. The other camps are at Gouda, near Rotterdam, Eda, and the newest at Hunspect on Zuider Zee.

### An Interesting Library Report

For the past few years the St. Louis public library has been experimenting with a new form of report. Half is taken up with a brief, condensed account of the library's general activities, while the other half is given up to a more discursive popular description of some one branch of its work, generally by the assistant at the head of that branch. This is generally illustrated and is somewhat in the style of a magazine article. It adds tremendously to the interest of the report.

The activity in which the report thus specializes this year is the use of books in the art collection, and the supplementary article, which is issued also as a separate pamphlet with ornamental cover, is entitled "Making Art Popular through the Public Library." The author is Mary McEachin Powell, chief of the art department. The illustrations, including a page of color, were contributed by the pupils of the St. Louis school of the fine arts, a department of Washington university. Numerous ornamental head and tail pieces to chapters, and decorative initials are from the same source. Probably such a coöperative pamphlet is a unique thing in library publications. Among the items of the year's work chronicled in the formal part of the report are the sending of a second thousand "follow-up" post cards to back-sliding readers; increase in the equipment and output of the bindery, which is now reinforcing new books as well as re-binding old ones; the erection of a bronze tablet acknowledging the respective shares of the city and Mr Carnegie in the provision of the building; the establishment of a public writing-room, somewhat like that in a club or hotel, with free materials, and secretarial service at current rates; announcement of several interesting library publications, including Miss Power's "Lists of stories," reports of the Municipal reference branch, a "Memorial bibliography" of Mr Crunden and Miss Quigley's "Index to kindergarten songs;" the establishment of a public card index to current

lectures, exhibitions and concerts; the assumption of the work of the Speakers' bureau, formerly operated by the Civic league; the beginning of a collection of lantern slides for circulation, now numbering over 3000; a notable increase in genealogical material in the reference department; the addition of a passenger automobile to the transportation service, and the purchase of a photostat, whose use is available to the public at cost of operation. The library reports that it has discontinued its "special card," books being now charged directly to name and address in the case of lost or forgotten cards, and that the cards of other libraries are now honored where nothing appears to show that the holders are not in good and regular standing. Progress has been made toward the instruction of school-children in the use of the library, and an increasing use of the parcel post for book-delivery is reported.

There are special sections on Unemployment and the European War, whose effects on the quantity and quality of circulation of the library use is discussed from the standpoint of various departments.

Miss Powell's special report on the art department emphasizes the fact that the aim of the library in St. Louis has been to bring art closer to the people. There is a section on "Material that can be obtained free or at little cost," which ought to be of value to the small library. No less than 26 exhibitions of various kinds have been held in the art room during the year. The books and other material are used regularly by artists, sculptors, architects, decorators, designers, and workers in jewelry, metals, china and other crafts, as well as by teachers and students. Amateurs preparing lectures, exhibitions, tableaux, dances, etc., find aid in the source-books for costuming, staging and the design of scenery. Plaster workers, modelers for terra-cotta firms, cabinet-makers, iron-workers and designers of all sorts of household objects come often to the department for designs and processes. Commercial artists use the library's material very freely for advertising ideas. The com-

mittees of art clubs frequently use the rooms for meetings, telephoning in advance for the collection of material to be used. The work with women's clubs, especially, is very large. The results are seen everywhere in the city—on advertising posters, in new residences and commercial buildings, in decorative sculpture, and stained glass, in festivals and pageants. The services rendered by this one department to the community have been great and varied; and Miss Powell reports her conviction that many "wonderful possibilities" remain.

REVIEWER.

### A Beginner's List in Modern Spanish

Secretary Utley of the A. L. A. in recent articles describing the A. L. A. exhibit at the Panama-Pacific International exposition, has voiced the appeal for convenient lists of Spanish books for beginners, and it is in reply to that appeal that the following list is presented.

The list was prepared by Professor Benjamin P. Bourland, head of the department of Romance languages, Adelbert college, Western Reserve university, one of the leading Spanish scholars in America. Professor Bourland's remarks on the list follow:

It is strictly a learner's list, as you can see—and with one exception, it is purely modern. The exception, the Spanish *Gil Blas*, is so very easy that it may properly be put here.

A word about the books—9, 12, and 15 are grammars; 9, the most complete and careful we have had as yet in this country; 8 is a collection of very easy stories. Of the others, 1, 5, 7, 11, 13 and 17 are the easier; 2, 6, 14, 18 and 19 the more difficult. All, I think, have vocabularies. 7 is a play, the others pure fiction.

1. **Alarcón**, El Capitan Veneno, ed. Ford. 1905. Heath, \$0.50.
2. **Alarcón**, El Sombrero de tres picos, ed. by Bourland. 1907. Holt, \$0.90.
3. **Alarcón**, Novelas cortas, ed. Giese. 1906. Ginn, \$0.90.
4. **Appleton's** Shorter Spanish-English dictionary. Appleton, \$2.50.
5. **Becquer**, Gustavo A. Legends, tales, etc., ed. Olmsted. 1908. Ginn, \$1.00.
6. **Blasco Ibáñez**, Vicente. La Barraca, ed. Keniston. 1910. Holt, \$0.90.

7. **Carrión**, M. R. y Aza, Vital. Zaragueta, ed. Howland. 1901. Silver, \$0.50.
8. **Giese and Cool**. Spanish anecdotes. 1909. Heath, \$0.60.
- ✓ 9. **Hills and Ford**. Spanish grammar. 1904. Heath, \$1.25.
10. **Lecturas Modernas**, ed. by Downer and Elias. 1914. Heath, \$0.60.
11. **Le Sage**. Gil Blas. Heath, \$0.45.
- ✓ 12. **Olmsted and Gordon**. Abridged Spanish grammar. 1914. Holt, \$1.25.
13. **Pérez Galdós**, Benito. Marianela, ed. Gray. 1902. Amer. Bk. Co., \$0.90.
14. **Pérez Galdós**, Benito. Doña Perfecta, ed. Lewis. 1896. Amer. Bk. Co., \$1.00.
- ✓ 15. **Ramsey**, M. M. Text-book of modern Spanish. 1894. Holt, \$1.80.
16. **Taboada**. Cuentos Alegres, ed. Porter. 1907. Heath, \$0.50.
17. **Valdés**, Armando Palacio. José, ed. Davidson. 1902. Heath, \$0.90.
18. **Valera**, Pepita Jiménez, ed. Lincoln. nd. Heath, \$0.90.
19. **Valera y Alcalá Galiano**, Juan. El Comendador Mendoza, ed. Schevill. 1905. Amer. Bk. Co., \$0.85.
20. **Vida de Gaspar Nunez de Balboa**, ed. Brownell. 1914. Ginn, \$0.65.

The college entrance requirements for the year 1915 in Spanish include Carrión, Valdés, and Alarcón (No. 1) and in addition the selected short stories of Pedro de Alarcón or Antonio de Trueba. Also:

- Pérez Eschrich**, Enrique. Fortuna. 1907. Ginn, \$0.50.  
**Valera**, Juan. El Pajaro verde. 1901. Ginn, \$0.40.

The requirements in Spanish follow the form and spirit of the recommendations made for French and German, by the Committee of 12 of the American language association and are based on recommendations made by a committee of that association in December, 1910.\*

JOHN BOYNTON KAISER.

A little volume which deserves a place in every school library is How to study and what to study by Richard L. Sandwick (Heath). It has a greater use than merely personal reading as it is a well-known fact that 90% of high school pupils and perhaps as many in first years in college, do not know how to study, so used as a text book "How to study" would be of value.

\*See *Publisher's Weekly*, July 24, 1915, p. 158-59.

### Adventures Among Libraries

I recently went traveling a bit, to get a rest, if possible, from the routine of a long continued round of duties in one place. It did me good and I recommend it for those who feel environment closing in on them. I shall go again myself just as soon as I feel like pushing away from me the things that really belong there.

Now, when I go traveling, I always go to see libraries, if there are any in the vicinity in which I find myself. I once was a librarian myself and did the best I knew how, but I shall always have an everlasting regret because when I was thus employed, there were not the many opportunities to do the fine work there are now, as we had far less to do with in both money and methods. But we had the mind to make the most of what we had and I believe the most of us tried to help the people who came to the library, even if we didn't go outside to them.

I want to tell of some things I saw in the libraries I visited, to library folk just as I've been telling others what I saw in their field. The editor has asked me to do so and, if I am in the wrong, don't blame *me*! I shall not tell things in sequence, because it might bring on controversy and I don't want controversy until I get started and then I hope I shall get plenty of it.

The delightful visit to a small library in Connecticut served to revive a waning faith in the possibilities of such establishments. Here the librarian was full of enthusiasm about local history, she had the books together ready for use; her children's section was her pride and joy, and she had selected the books from approved lists. The closing hour at night was movable, as there was an evident willingness to stay as long as she could show her treasures. She reflected the enthusiasms and ambitions of other librarians in her state who had helped and encouraged her.

Near to Connecticut borders, in another state, is a library which represents faith in books, as it was given by a man who hoped to benefit his fellow-towns-

men, but nothing could be found which could more effectually shatter faith in libraries. The two custodians were busy with "fancy work" (the inability to assign a name to the variety shows my ignorance of it). One of them rocked violently as she called across the room to assistant "Lizzie" the recipe for cheese sandwiches which she proclaimed "glorious."

A perfectly nice little boy was urged to finish Alger before beginning on other authors and was sent away with "Jed, the poor-house boy."

Books were arranged in numerical sequence and Lizzie called the numbers while her superior searched the shelves. I was suspicious of people who went immediately to a little room and returned with one of the few fresh books in the collection—they were surely the librarian's pets who were permitted to see the secret corners. The whole thing was utterly chaotic and there was nothing to justify expenditure of public funds. The librarian complained bitterly of her salary—so the townspeople said.

As an evening visitor to a large city library, I disturbed the attendants (man and girl) who were not interested in me; I am sure the page resented my presence for he slammed books on the table at which I was reading in armfuls and singly all evening in a manner reminiscent of an old fashioned cannonading. The janitor glared at me as he banged the windows shut at 8:50, and as the approach of 9 P. M. seemed to indicate further and serious trouble, I apologized to all hands for the unwarranted intrusion and took to the public square for safety. I reflected upon library matters and manners and came to the conclusion that the public individually and collectively had a right to courtesy in a library, also to intelligent service; and that the people responsible for that library should at intervals visit it or send emissaries to it in the evening. There must be a sufficient number of refined and intelligent people in any city to provide a corps of library assistants. Why should positions be given to ignorant, rude people, who



have no interest in books and in the welfare of the library?

A visit to a Canadian library seemed, at first, to have taken place unfortunately on a national holiday—July 1—but this turned out to be a blessing in disguise since it afforded an opportunity to discover environments and quality of the community before visiting the library.

I felt right proud of a little bit of Sherlock Holmes ingenuity in finding out how to get in touch with the librarian, since the library, as well as every other civic institution in the place, was closed because of the holiday. A number of passers-by on the library grounds knew the librarian but none of them knew where he lived. Finally, seeing a laundry in the near vicinity, I fancied that with a staff of young ladies connected with the library, there certainly must be some who enjoyed the advantage of the proximity of the laundry and so it proved. In answer to the question: "Could you tell me where any of the members of the library staff live?" I was answered in good United States: "You bet your life I can!" I shall pass over the pleasant visit of the day and all it brought forth, because it has nothing to do with this story, although it showed that the institution was in charge of a blue ribbon librarian.

The next day was spent in visiting the library and thoroughly enjoying the contact of a thoroughly up-to-date, efficient, harmonious institution. In the forenoon, the municipal automobile was placed by the mayor at the disposal of the librarian who took two members of his staff with us to visit branches in different parts of the city. After a morning spent most pleasurably in seeing things worth while, at luncheon, a group of five of the staff was assembled for a visit. During the visit, this B. R. L. arranged that the staff should sit with me apart from himself and the members of his family, who had come to luncheon, too, so, as he remarked, we "might visit and say what you please away from the restraint of the chief," and what an insight I got of the machinery of that library in the hour spent in conversation between bites! Effici-

ency, *esprit de corps*, joy, were the key-notes of all that was said.

Then we all went to the main library, where I was delivered to the chief, who, in turn, called a member of the staff and, after a pleasant word of introduction, instructed her to take me into one of the departments, introduce me to the head of it and ask her after showing me around, to take me into another department, and so on through the whole layout of the library. I have seldom seen so intelligent, so enthusiastic, so pleasant a spirit shown by staff members as I witnessed that afternoon. From one department to another we went and finally into the mending department which was beyond doubt the most orderly, systematic and effective of any of the kind I had ever seen. Most of the work was done by a boy and the janitor who had been a book binder in his early days. The department was in charge of an intelligent girl who took great delight in her department and evidently felt the joy of working in a group where "none was considered great and no one was labeled small."

On returning to the office of the chief librarian, another phase of the thing that made for efficiency in the library was shown when the chief was receiving from a lady with a garden, an immense bouquet of different kinds of perennial blossoms which grew in that locality. After we all had admired the flowers and the lady left, the chief sent for a member of the staff who had kept house while the rest were at luncheon with the stranger, and remarking "I want you to take some of the flowers home with you because I think you care for them so much and know so much more about them than the rest of us do." Then he told her she might "go home half an hour earlier tonight." It was a delightful situation, an educational institution and everyone there was keenly alive to the opportunity and thoroughly enjoyed making the most of it. The public looked so happy as they came and went and the quiet thoughtfulness of the place was most inspiring.

(To be continued.)

### Library Meetings

**Chicago**—The December meeting of the Chicago library club was held at the Chicago public library. The club was fortunate in having Miss Kathleen O'Brennan of Dublin, who spoke on "Personalities in the Irish literary movement." A writer and critic herself, Miss O'Brennan told in a most intimate and interesting way not only the significance of the movement, but also the contribution to it of such poets, novelists and dramatists as "A. E.," Stephens, Synge, Lady Gregory, Yeats, Shaw and many others. Not the least inspiring part of her talk was her characterization of the group who gather at the Abbey theatre, for she gave us such vivid impressions of her friends and associates that we shall think of them no longer as celebrities merely, but as live people, doing splendid work in the literary world.

Dean Swift was mentioned so many times that one felt that his influence was still predominant among the Irish.

"A. E.," George Russell, she said was the strongest literary factor in Ireland, and at his feet sat all the young school of Irish writers. George Moore, Irvine, Colum, Edward Martyn, Casey, were pictured. The Abbey Theatre and Lady Gregory the hearers were more familiar with, but it was good to get their setting. Douglas Hyde, Miss Horniman as inspirational sponsor and financial supporter, and the great John Synge, whose understanding of the Irish peasant, especially of the west coast and the isle of Aran has enriched Irish literature, were portrayed as great influences.

Miss O'Brennan was asked several questions "Was the Literary Movement confined to Dublin?" to which she answered that both Manchester and Ulster had worthy theatres and literary groups, and that good dramatic work was coming from Cork.

**Colorado**—The annual meeting of the Colorado library association held November 22 to 24 inclusive, was made notable this year from the meeting of Colorado library trustees. It was the

first conference with a special session for trustees and the opinion was general that such meetings should be held annually.

Colorado Springs was the meeting place and the attendance was above the average for an "out of Denver" meeting.

A feature of the conference was the extensive exhibit which was held at two libraries in Colorado Springs, composed of library aids and devices. These were in charge of Miss Rena Reese of the Denver public library. The exhibit comprised books and pamphlets on various phases of library work, exhibits of book binding, care of magazines, etc., part of the collection shown at the New York state meeting this year which emphasized the relation of small libraries to their communities, the loan exhibit from California relating to county library extension, and maps showing the need for library extension in Colorado.

Albert F. Carter, librarian of the State Teachers' college at Greeley and president of the association, opened the conference. Following Miss Reese's talk on the library exhibit, Mrs Jennie Caward Jackson read a paper in New York Point on "Books for the blind." Mrs Jackson, who is herself blind, is the state teacher for the blind in Colorado and she gave a most interesting sketch of the history of point systems for blind readers. She compared the advantages of the Braille, New York Point and Moon systems and called attention to the new Standard system which is being advocated by many workers with the blind.

"Medical progress and the medical library" was discussed by Dr Walter A. Jayne, chairman of the library committee of the Denver County medical society. Dr Jayne's presentation was a scholarly one. Several physicians were present and Dr George A. Boyd of Colorado Springs discussed the subject of medical literature and gave valuable advice in the way of "don'ts" to the librarians. It was the judgment of the physicians present that medical literature can be handled more successfully through a special medical library than through a

public library. Should medical literature be purchased by a public library, they urged that this be in the nature of medical periodicals instead of medical books.

Mrs Mary C. C. Bradford, superintendent of public instruction, who is ex-officio state librarian, discussed the topic "Family trees and how to grow them." This was presented for a consideration of the genealogical work done by the state library and a discussion of some problems connected with this work. It was also presented by Miss Elma Wilson, librarian of the Greeley public library.

The evening session of the association took place in Bemis hall at Colorado college. Many members of the faculty and other citizens were invited to meet the visiting librarians. Rev Merle N. Smith of Colorado Springs gave a much appreciated address on Robert Burns. This was followed by a delightful presentation of Barrie's one act comedy "Rosalind." After this performance there was a social time in Bemis hall.

Tuesday morning was spent in library visiting and sightseeing. Most of Colorado's libraries are on the eastern slope of the Rockies and the three near the Springs each provided matters of special interest to the library visitors.

The afternoon session was held at the Colorado Springs public library and was given over to the library trustees. "Seven cardinal virtues and seven deadly sins of a library trustee" were discussed by Mrs Jasper Writer of the Denver public library board of trustees. Her forceful, witty remarks on library trustees, based on her own experiences, evoked much applause and discussion.

Dr R. W. Corwin, a trustee of the Pueblo public library, discussed "County library extension with county library support." A map of Colorado showing that state to be without public library facilities of any kind in one-half of its territory, was the subject for consideration. Several speakers urged that the Library association introduce an amendment to the present Colorado library law at the next session of the legislature, providing for county library support and county li-

brary extension throughout the state. This will be considered by the Association's legislative committee at a later date.

Judge Horace E. Lunt of the Colorado Springs board of library trustees discussed "The financial side of library work." His presentation was an interesting one in which he urged library trustees, both in their official and private capacities, to talk about the library and its financial support in and out of season.

"The division of authority from a trustee's viewpoint" was presented by Mrs B. F. Stickley of the Leadville board of library trustees. She gave practical consideration to the basic principles in the relation of trustees and librarian, trustees and library assistants, and trustees and the public. During the general discussion which followed, attention was called to the need of greater publicity by library trustees and library workers regarding library work.

Miss Alice Lambert, assistant state librarian, asked for help from library workers in Colorado in spreading information about the state library. Several present volunteered to furnish material on the work of this library in their local newspapers and a committee on library publicity was appointed by the chairman to give definite service in this work. The trustees urged that every library board in Colorado pay the expenses and send their librarian to the annual meetings of the Colorado library association.

Following this session the librarians were entertained by President and Mrs Slocum of Colorado college at the president's home.

The evening session held in the library of the Colorado Springs high school, was largely attended and the program was one of the best ever presented before the association.

"Adventures of an itinerant librarian" was the subject of an unusual paper written by Miss Mabel Wilkinson of Greeley. For four months last summer, Miss Wilkinson was in Wheatland, Wyoming, organizing the public library there.

Since this is in the county seat of a county given financial support for county extension, part of Miss Wilkinson's work was to make a library survey of the county and establish library centers for book distribution. The county comprises some 13,000 square miles of territory and for two weeks, Miss Wilkinson journeyed on horseback, visiting hamlets and towns. Her travelling paraphernalia included a Colt's revolver, a copy of the Wyoming library law, grub box, and clothing. She encountered a hurricane, snakes, ranchmen and other citizens greatly interested in the library's extension plans, and a choice dynamite explosion.

H. E. Woodbridge of Colorado college, reviewer of the drama for the *Nation* and the *Dial*, gave a most enjoyable review of some recent drama.

Dr John Carl Parish of the same college, who is well known as the author of "Man of the iron hand" and other historical studies, gave a valuable contribution with his topic "The library and local history." Dr Parish emphasized the value of local history, and its place in general history, and pointed out the many ways in which even a small library can collect and preserve the history of its locality.

The final session of the association on November 24 was held in the public library and an important report was that from the committee on legislation submitted by the chairman Manly D. Ormes. The report recommended the consolidation of the state's various library activities and urged their combination under one governing board,—a Colorado library board to take over the library work at present performed by the Department of public instruction, the Travelling library commission, and the State board of library commissioners. It was recommended that the proposed new Board consist of a superintendent of public instruction, exofficio, one representative of the Colorado federation of women's clubs, a representative from the Colorado library association, one from an educational institution of college rank, and one librarian of a public

library. The bill proposed an appropriation of \$15,000 annually to carry on the state's library activities. This proposed legislation has already received the provisional sanction of the superintendent of public instruction, the Traveling library, and the State board of library commissioners.

The difficulty in getting the bill passed a year hence lies in the fact that the proposed library consolidation will necessitate a change in the state's constitution. To change the constitution means considerable expense in printing thousands of copies of the proposed amendment for signatures and in combatting an existing opposition to any amendment to the constitution. This attitude in the state has followed the too frequent attempts made recently to amend the state constitution in various ways.

The association elected officers for the ensuing year as follows:

President, C. Henry Smith, librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.; vice president, Rena Reese, Denver public library; secretary-treasurer, Helen Ingersoll, Denver public library.

**Maine**—The twenty-fifth meeting of the Maine library association was held at the Bangor public library, October 28, with over 60 members present.

The president of the association, Mr Charles A. Flagg, librarian of the Bangor public library, gave a practical address dealing with the needs of the association. Among the needs emphasized were: 1) A strong, active association, based on recognition of the dignity and value of our work. 2) Legislation providing for the entire time of one person to carry out the plans of the Library commission, and for the erection of a separate State library building. 3) The need of the collection and publication of accurate statistics relating to libraries and library work in Maine. 4) The publication of a union list of serials in the leading libraries of the state.

J. W. Taylor, state agent for Secondary education, spoke of the importance of library facilities for schools and

gave the facts relating to those of Maine secondary schools and the towns in which they are located. He outlined the hopes of the State department and referred to the appropriation made by the last legislature providing for special traveling libraries for schools.

H. E. Dunnack, state librarian, spoke of the relations of the State library to other libraries and librarians of Maine, and promised the hearty co-operation of the state in the library work. He referred to the beginning of a legislative reference department at the State library and the employment of a library organizer, the work having been begun by the appointment of a single individual to fill both positions. Librarians were reminded that the State library would arrange special traveling libraries when needed upon special topics, and applications for single volumes would not only be met when the volume asked was in the State library but any volume needed not already owned would be purchased.

Luncheon was served by the trustees of the Bangor public library in the basement, and an opportunity given during the recess to inspect the beautiful new building and to see the remarkable progress which has been made in building up a well selected collection of books since the almost complete destruction of the library in the Bangor fire of 1911.

After recess, Professor W. H. Harts-horn of Bates college, chairman of the State library commission, delivered an eloquent and appreciative address in memory of the late George Thomas Little, Litt. D., librarian of Bowdoin college. At its close, the following resolution was adopted:

The Maine library association at its first meeting since the death of its former president, Professor George T. Little, Litt. D., desires to place on record its grateful appreciation of his life work. For over a generation, by his experience, by his wise counsel, by his kindly sympathy, and by the gentle goodness of his character he has been an exemplar to the people of this state

of the learned and successful librarian. To those bound to him by family ties this brief expression of esteem for him and of sincere sympathy for them is most respectfully tendered.

In an interesting practical talk upon Library opportunity today, Robert K. Shaw, librarian of the Free public library, Worcester, Mass., advocated elastic rules, based on the good of the majority, and approved of stretching rules when circumstances made it expedient.

Mrs Mary H. Curran, formerly librarian and now associate librarian of the Bangor public library, presented an interesting paper of library reminiscences. Her own connection with the library covers nearly forty years. Mrs Curran was one of those who helped organize the State association in 1891 and she was the only one of the original members present.

The president of the association was authorized to appoint a committee on legislation and a committee to prepare a union list of serials. Mr Dunnack promised that the list would be published when ready by the State library. The association voted to hold two sessions a year hereafter, one to be held as during the two past years in connection with the State teachers' association and the second in May in connection with one of the library institutes of the Library commission.

The old officers were re-elected to serve until the May meeting: President, Charles A. Flagg, Bangor public library; vice presidents, Miss Annie Prescott, Auburn public library, and Miss Mary G. Gilman, Curtis memorial library, Brunswick; treasurer, Miss H. Mabel Leach, Portland public library; secretary, Ralph K. Jones, University of Maine library, Orono.

**Minneapolis**—The annual meeting of the Twin City library club was held Tuesday, October 26. There were 58 persons present to hear Mr F. K. Mathiews, of New York, Chief Scout librarian.

Mr Mathiews outlined three steps in boys' reading—fairy tales, adventure



tales and romances—and showed that the natural imagination of boys must have expression in other ways and that this could be done by books of What and how to do things, books about great men and heroes, etc. The twenty-five-cent book of to-day is the old nickel novel in covers. Investigation has shown that the manuscript for these are manufactured on a wholesale basis by a syndicate of clerks who are furnished with a mere outline of the plot. The Boy Scouts organization is trying to replace these cheap stories with books which will improve and inspire boys, as cannot be done by books written to order. This is done, in coöperation with writers and publishers, by passing on manuscripts when offered for sale and inducing the printing of good books in cheaper editions from old plates. Mr Mathews spoke of what he hoped "Juvenile week" would accomplish and answered all questions that were asked.

In the absence of Dr Johnston, Miss Countryman presided at the meeting.

The following officers were elected: President, R. L. Walkley; vice-president, Dr Solon Buck; secretary, Ethel Berry; treasurer, Bertha Barden.

**Missouri**—The Missouri library association held its annual meeting at Joplin, October 20-22. The attendance was not quite so large as at some other sessions but the enthusiasm was great, the papers and addresses excellent, and the discussions spirited.

Mr Ranck of Grand Rapids was a guest of the association and delivered an illustrated address on City library services for the farmer.

Mrs Curry, president of the Kansas association, was present, as were also other librarians of that state, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The association placed itself on record as strongly favoring the selection by the Executive board of a place in the Middle West for the 1916 session of the A. L. A.

A committee was appointed to consider the county library question and

frame a bill for presentation to the association at its next annual meeting.

Coöperation with the State teachers' association in the inspection of school libraries throughout the state was urged and provided for by committee.

Action was taken upon various other topics, among them the question of coöperative advertising for American libraries, the revision of the Missouri libraries' handbook, and methods for more effectually distributing to libraries the public documents issued by the state.

The officers elected were: President, Dr A. E. Bostwick, St. Louis; first vice-president, Miss Fordice of Sedalia; second vice-president, Miss Sutherland of Kansas City; treasurer, Miss Martin of St. Joseph; secretary, Mary E. Baker, Columbia.

Sessions were held in Joplin and Webb City and a visit was made to the public and high school libraries of Carthage.

The association was indebted to the librarians and library boards of these cities for a trolley ride through the mining district, luncheon and an automobile trip to the stone quarries of Carthage, together with numerous other courtesies and acts of hospitality. It was also indebted to the Century club of Joplin which, on the evening of the twenty-first, presented before it Anatole France's play, "The man who married a dumb wife."

An invitation from the Columbia library club to meet at the State university in 1916 was referred to the executive board with favorable endorsement.

MARY E. BAKER,

Secretary.

**Montana**—The ninth annual meeting of the Montana library association was opened in Great Falls, on Nov. 22, by Prof Coffman of the University of Montana in an interesting talk and reading on Modern drama and life. This was followed by a delightful informal tea at the library. The evening session was held in connection with that of the State teach-

ers' association at the opera house, where Prof C. E. Rugh of the University of California delivered an able address on Moral motives in education, and Prof E. A. Ross of the University of Wisconsin talked on This man-made world. Later a reception was held for the librarians and teachers by the citizens of Great Falls.

An address of welcome was given on Tuesday morning by Dr Barth of the Great Falls library board, who spoke particularly of the value of county libraries for the great farming communities of the state. In his response Mr Davies of the Butte public library traced the development of the modern library movement from its inception in 1876 to the present day, and prophesied the further growth of the library as the great forward movement of the century. The president, Miss Fernald, gave a splendid address on "The spirit of the pioneer in library work," showing that we are even now in the pioneer stage in library work in this state, and tracing the steps we must take in the development of the library system of the new territory. This was followed by a discussion, on roll call, of the particular problems facing the various libraries in the association. The meeting was closed by an inspiring address by the Rev G. G. Bennett of Great Falls on The effect of reading, or the lack of it, on the growing mind, based on his experience as a teacher of English in a boys' preparatory school.

The afternoon session was opened by an exposition of the principal provisions of the recently enacted county library bill, with a report from the legislative committee which worked for its passage, followed by reports from various counties where attempts have been made to establish county libraries.

A legislative committee was appointed to prepare a bill providing for a library commission or a library supervisor for the state, to report at the next general meeting of the association.

A book symposium was held on Wednesday morning, led by Miss Stoddard of Missoula. Papers were contributed to it by Miss McCord of Bozeman, on

Vocational books, Miss Haley of Helena, on Recent reference books, Miss Main of Lewistown, on Books on the war for small libraries, and Mrs Homans of Havre, on the Best novel of the year. This was followed by general discussion. An interesting paper by Miss Steadman of Livingston on Juvenile book week and the Christmas exhibit of books was followed by short talks by Miss Dickerson of Helena on Legislative reference work and by Miss Buckhous of Missoula on the proposed Montana library school.

The following officers were elected: Mr Davies, president; Miss Main, vice-president; Miss Steadman, secretary; Mrs Homans, treasurer.

The executive committee was empowered to affiliate this association with the A. L. A. if the funds permit. The thanks of the association were formally expressed to Senator Byrnes of Lewis and Clark county for his assistance in passing the county library bill.

AGNES DICKERSON,  
Secretary.

**New Jersey**—The first fall meeting of the New Jersey school librarians' association was held October 9 at the library of the East Orange high school, East Orange. Miss Mary L. Sutliff of the New York Public Library library school addressed the members of the association on "The most useful reference books for a high school library." Her talk was followed by an informal discussion of the subject by all present.

The sixth meeting met at the East Orange public library, December 11. Julia A. Hopkins, principal of the Training class of the Brooklyn public library, addressed the members of the association on Courses of library instruction in high schools.

DOROTHY KENT,  
Secretary.

**New Mexico**—The third annual meeting of the Librarians section of the New Mexico State teachers association was held in the high school building at Albuquerque, N. M., Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1915. At the business meeting the following officers were elected: Miss Myrtle Cole, Raton public library, chairman;

Miss Pauline Madden, Albuquerque public library, secretary; executive council, Miss Della Sisler, State University library, 3 years; Mrs Redic, Cloudcroft, 2 years; Miss Floy French, State college, 1 year. A lively discussion followed on the question of library legislation in the state. It was agreed that best results could be obtained from working with the women's clubs of the state for the county library and extension work through the University library.

The following program was rendered: "How the library and the teacher may aid the New Mexico rancher and farmer" by Floy E. French of the State college. Her paper contained excellent suggestions as to the use of the free bulletins from the department of agriculture for the farmer and miner; also called attention to the free pamphlets from the state and forestry departments.

A lively discussion followed in which was mentioned the free outlines sent out by Miss Ross, state leader in domestic science, which are suited for club work.

"The child and his book." Mrs R. F. Asplund of Santa Fe.

An interesting talk of her own experiences as child, teacher, librarian and mother. Mention made of the ways in which to reach different types of children. The difference between good and bad reading were shown.

A good discussion was provoked, and made more interesting by the presence of a Chinese who was in this country in the interest of a school in China.

"The Teacher and the Library." Dr F. H. H. Roberts of the Las Vegas normal school.

Dr Roberts said that the teacher lives in the past, in the world of books, therefore the librarian must bring the good of the present day fiction and poetry to the teacher and the school. This will help to do away with the lack of interest in English 'outside reading' by the child. He stated that every one should read widely and then use what he gets in that reading in his own life—dramatize it for himself. For this reason, teachers and librarians should be most careful what books are given to boys and girls.

He then told a story of a boy whom he knew who had just been released from serving five years in the state penitentiary. Upon being questioned as to why he had committed the crime which had placed him there said that he got the idea from a 'modern thriller.'

PAULINE MADDEN,  
Secretary.

**New York**—The second meeting of the New York library club was held Thursday afternoon, November 11, 1915. Mr Ralph Dunbar, librarian in charge of the traveling libraries department of the Brooklyn public library, gave an interesting address on their work with factories and stores. (See page 21). Miss Gertrude Beeks, director of the welfare department, of the National civic federation, gave an address, illustrated by lantern slides, on Humanitarianism in industry. She told of the work of the National civic federation in its effort to crystalize the most enlightened public opinion, as a helping force in solving national, social and industrial problems. The welfare department, composed only of employers with the public to induce them to improve conditions of employees, taking as a basis, uninterrupted employment and equitable wage and as short a work day as a given industry will permit. The views exhibited on the screen portrayed some of the best examples of sanitary work places, opportunities for recreation, educational plans, homes, industrial insurance and so on. Contrasting views were also given of before and after conditions.

A social hour followed the program. There were about 345 members and guests present.

ELEANOR H. FRICK,  
Secretary.

**Texas**—The annual meeting of the Texas library association was held at San Antonio, October 13-15, 1915. The president, Miss Elizabeth H. West, librarian of the Carnegie library at San Antonio, gave a splendid address, in which she answered the question: How can we, the legatees of past ages,

worthily administer the trust our fathers have left us? The best way to help is to give people the best possible opportunity to help themselves. The librarian of today is doing his part toward developing and maintaining the highest material and spiritual standards—individual and national. The library association is an organization based on the desire to help library people help themselves.

Miss Lillian Gunther, of Granville, presented the subject of County libraries and, at the close a committee, with Miss Gunther as chairman, was appointed to study the needs of Texas library interests and formulate plans for needed legislation.

Library advertising was presented by Miss Rogan, of the State library, and Miss McCauley, of Waco.

How the local dealer can cooperate with the library was given by Miss Schmieding.

Willard P. Lewis, of Baylor university, presented the subject of Library binding.

The local entertainment committee provided automobile trips to several Spanish missions in the vicinity of San Antonio.

A resolution was adopted urging the establishment of a permanent library school at the University of Texas. The following officers were elected:

President, Miss Elizabeth H. West; first vice-president, Lillian Gunther; second vice-president, W. P. Lewis, of Waco; secretary, Miss Octavio F. Rogan; treasurer, Miss Martha Schmitzler.

E. W. Winkler, formerly State librarian of Texas, has been appointed reference librarian and curator of Texas books in the University of Texas library.

**Vermont**—A joint meeting of the Vermont library association and the Vermont free library commission was held in Burlington, October 20-22, 1915. Nearly 100 librarians and library trustees were present. The first session was devoted to reports from the six

officers, who had been appointed to discuss affairs in their counties. The problems are still, lack of interest, of money, too much fiction read, etc.

The second session was held at the Billings library. The address of welcome was given by Dr Benton, president of the university. The committees reported on work done during the year. Merritt D. Chittenden, superintendent of Burlington public schools, read an interesting paper on Work with teacher-training classes. He emphasized the following points: 1) the great importance of reaching children in the schools; 2) the 31 libraries in towns where there are teacher training classes should be practice schools in library work for those classes; 3) a drawback to getting the most out of children's books in schools is the ignorance of many teachers about such books; 4) all normal schools in all states should have training in library methods and use of reference books as a regular part of the required course; 5) cooperation between teachers and librarians by having librarians present at teachers' meetings; 6) the Vermont library association should stand for better trained teachers with culture, broad literary background and some knowledge of library methods should be required by Vermont law; 7) pupils in the teacher training classes should read aloud or tell stories to children in libraries; 8) a brief list of 12 books for each year in childhood should be made to help the teacher guide the pupil's reading; 9) the librarians should get acquainted with their district superintendents; 10) the State library commission should have a school traveling library for a few weeks at each teacher training class, show method of charging, etc.; 11) there should be a ten-weeks' course in our 2 normal schools showing value of books to the students and to school children.

In the discussion, the following books on story-telling were recommended: Art of story telling (Appleton \$1.50), Eastern stories of legends for narration (Dutton 50c), by Marie

L. Shedlock; A mother's list of books for children, by S. L. Arnold (McClurg \$1); Stories to tell to children, by S. C. Bryant (Houghton \$1); Stories and story telling, by A. M. Keyes (Appleton \$1.25); What shall we read to the children? by C. W. Hunt (Houghton \$1).

Miss E. J. Chamberlain of Vergennes, told of how she made pictures and clippings useful. She used tailors' sample books, pasting the pictures in place of the samples taken out and found they made excellent scrap books and recommended separate books for different ages. She filed her pamphlets, clippings and pictures in one alphabet under subjects. The library exhibits the pictures illustrating geography, lessons being given at the school. The children are invited to come to the library and there somebody explained the pictures.

A paper on Flowers in the library brought out description of a number of flower shows some of which were held on Sunday so that the men and their wives could attend.

The following officers for the coming year were elected: President, Fanny B. Fletcher, Proctorsville; vice-president, Eleanor Eggleston, Manchester; secretary-treasurer, Elizabeth C. Hills, Lyndenville; second vice-presidents: Ruth E. Richmond, Anna E. Mower, Vera A. Griffith, Mrs Abba D. Chamberlin, Katherine Mathieson, Edith J. Chamberlain.

Corinne Bacon, of the H. W. Wilson Co., read an interesting paper on What it means to be a librarian.

Rev. I. C. Smart of Burlington, read a paper on A simple reader and Shakespeare. He outlined favorite characters, their strength and their weakness, quoted some of the best known lines, suggested a few of the less familiar plays and characters and made all his hearers desire to read the plays and know them better.

At the evening session, Richard T. Wyche, of New York city, spoke on the meaning and value of story telling. The story should measure up to high

literary standards and fit the needs of the child. The aim of story telling should be to introduce the child hearer to good books. A background necessary for a true appreciation of the best in literature—both ancient and modern must be developed unconsciously as the child mind grows and assimilates and should be as much an integral part of the child life as his unconscious breath. If we do not see to it that the child has these advantages, we rob him of much of his heritage. Mr Wyche illustrated the method of story telling in a brief outline on Hiawatha cycle and two of Uncle Remus stories.

On Friday evening, the program opened with a delightful talk by Clara W. Hunt, director of the children's department of the Brooklyn Public library on library work for children. She told actual happenings to show how difficulties may be overcome (See page —).

Prof J. W. Abernathy of Burlington read a paper on Comparative values of classical and current literature for school and library. He said that the library and librarian are responsible for the salvation of society in these modern times when the "goodness of getting on" is the only ideal of most and when vocational training pushes into the background all classical and literary training; when the cheap and ephemeral take first place everywhere. Feed a boy's mind with yellow literature and his character and nature will become yellow, like a plant fed on yellow ochre. Tastes and sympathies in reading determine character and the issues of life. Therefore, important as current events may be, let us not sacrifice everything to the newspapers and the weeklies with predigested summaries of thought. This craze for teaching history through newspapers and magazines destroys in the pupil all sense of the value of historical research, accuracy, proportion. The classics, which have stood the test of time, should not be shouldered aside for the sake of newspaper reports. The reader of mere current literature



has no background, no perspective, of gradual development, of the causes of civilization, no sense of proportion between past and present, no cultivated critical taste for the best in literature and art, no fine sense of values.

If schools will sacrifice all real culture to vocational training, all the past to present get-rich-quick methods, then the only hope for preservation of beauty and value in literature lies in the libraries.

Resolutions thanking the hosts of the occasion for their generous welcome and hospitality and resolutions expressing the loss to Vermont in the death of two librarians: Josephine M. Keeler, of Bennington and Ellen F. Dewey, of Fair Haven were passed.

R. W. WRIGHT, Secretary.

### The High School Library in North-Eastern Ohio

At the meeting of the North Eastern Ohio teachers' association held in Cleveland, Ohio, October 22, the high school library was given for the first time a definite place on the program. Although an important lecture and other meetings were going on in the East technical high school building at the same time as the library section, it was well attended, not only by Cleveland librarians but by teachers from Cleveland and elsewhere.

The program was prepared under the direction of Miss Bessie Sargeant Smith, supervisor of the Cleveland high school libraries, and the session conducted by Miss Leora Cross, librarian of the West high school.

The themes particularly stressed in papers and discussions were the increasing usefulness of the school library as a laboratory for certain courses and in supplementing and broadening the work of all courses; the necessity of giving pupils more or less extended instruction in the use of the library and of books as tools, and the imperative need for close coöperation between teachers and librarians if the librarian's work in supplement-

ing school courses is to be effective. In the last connection, two points were brought out by different speakers: A librarian emphasized the necessity of giving the school librarian class assignments in advance, in order that she may assemble and organize her material, and the advisability of assigning references for lessons or supplementary reading by topic rather than by specific book, thus avoiding a rush for one or two books; a head of a high school English department devoted practically a whole paper to her system of making the librarian's course of instruction in the use of the library effective by giving her own English classes definite assignments requiring the practical use of the various library tools.

A librarian spoke further of the high school library's opportunity for directing the reading of boys and girls at the intermediate stage, between the periods when they cease to be patrons of the children's department of the public library and have not yet been enrolled as adult borrowers; also, various teachers testified to the value of the high school library as a supplement to science, Latin and Greek courses, as well as the English and history work. One head of a high school science department contributed the novel but reasonable idea that few people would be taking technical and scientific correspondence courses if they had learned in school years how extensive are library resources along these lines and how to find and organize this material for their own purposes.

A high school library exhibit prepared by the supervisor of High school libraries especially for this meeting excited considerable interest. It consisted of books in finely illustrated editions, reading lists and aids in vocational guidance, library instruction outlines, etc., all showing the close relation between school and library. Material was shown from all the Cleveland high school libraries, from Oakland (California) high school and the New Jersey library commission.

### Interesting Things in Print

The Gary (Ind.) public library has begun the publication of a monthly bulletin under the title *Opportunity—Notes from the Gary Public Library*.

The Louisville public library has issued a booklet of 75 pages containing a list of the music scores and books about music in the Louisville public library.

The Agricultural experiment station of Purdue university, Ind., has some important investigations on the food of poultry in its *Bulletin* for November, 1915.

The Bureau of foreign and domestic commerce has issued an annotated subject catalog of its publications. Libraries will find this useful for manufacturers and exporters in the present state of trade.

George W. Fuller, librarian of the Public library of Spokane, Washington, has an article in the *Spokesman-Review*, November 21, relating to the danger to juveniles from unfit literature in the homes.

No. 2 of volume I of *Technical Book Review Index* has been issued. The 51 pages of entries are arranged alphabetically under authors. The material was prepared by the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

The bulletin of the Maine State library, October, 1914, gives a picture of the late Dr George T. Little, librarian of Bowdoin college, which is a striking likeness. There is also a sketch of his life written in a strain of high appreciation.

The *Inland Printer* of December, contains the thirty-first chapter of the Literature of typography, which deals with the art in Great Britain and other European countries in the seventeenth century. There is much material in the *Inland Printer* which appeals to lovers of book-making—librarians and others.

The Report of the International Congress of Women at the Hague, April 28 to May 1, 1915, has been published by

the International Women's Committee for Permanent Peace, Amsterdam, in three different languages, English, French and German, in one volume (xlviii, 323 pp. illus.) and may be obtained from the Woman's Peace Party, 116 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, for 60 cents, postpaid.

A manual of Pageantry, prepared by Dr Arthur Withington, department of English, Indiana university, has been issued as Bulletin v. 13, No. 7 of the Indiana University extension division. Directions and descriptions of pageants for different occasions, are given with details of organization and technique of the pageant. A short bibliography on the subject gives additional value.

A statement of some interest, coming from Wisconsin, is that of an investigator, who visited every home in a sparsely settled northern township covering 150 square miles, who reports that not a single adult individual in the entire township had read a book during the year. Such a condition as this has led the commission to emphasize their parcel post delivery of single volumes to single individuals.

A pamphlet has been issued by the Department of public instruction of the state of Wisconsin, containing lessons on the use of the school library in schools, both village and city. The rural schools are also included. A course for high schools in giving such library instruction as has not been given in the grades is also included. It was prepared by O. S. Rice, supervisor of school libraries for Wisconsin. The emphasis is placed on the use of the books rather than the technicalities of taking care of them.

The Law Reporting Company, of New York city, has issued the final 1915 number of Official index to state legislation, which they are publishing in cooperation with the National association of state librarians and the Association of law librarians. The Index is arranged 1) by subjects alphabetically; 2) under each subject by states alphabetically; 3) under each state by the Senate and the Assembly or House; 4) under each house, the

bills first, and then the resolutions, numerically, by introduction numbers.

An entry under each bill and resolution gives the bill number, date of introduction, name of the author of the bill, the subject, short title of the bill and the status on the date shown at the head of the column. The Index is to be cumulated and published weekly up to the time for the issuing the annual number. The plan of publication is fully explained in the preface.

This wide sweep of information concerning bills passed and pending in every legislature in the country forms a valuable tool for those needing information along these lines.

*Local history in Kentucky literature* is the title of a paper by Mr Otto A. Rothert read Sept. 27 before the Louisville literary club and now published by the author by multigraph process. Mr Rothert's paper is a distinct addition to the study of local American literature. It analyzes or annotates by the happiest running comment a considerable number of tales and novels of literary merit based upon typical Kentucky forms of life, and therefore serves as a guide to a regional group of writers very important in American letters. Mr Rothert's previous publications include a history of Muhlenberg county, Ky., which is virtually a treatise on the cultural history of Southwestern Kentucky and in character happily different from the common pattern of county histories. It contains one chapter of exquisite value to librarians, namely, an analysis of the life and writings of James Weir. The present paper on the Kentucky historical tale is worthy of a place in every library alive to the importance of a local historical awakening. J. C. B.

### Wanted

The supply of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for October, 1915, has become exhausted. An exchange will be made with those who wish other available numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES and who will return the October number to this office.

## Library Schools

### Carnegie library of Pittsburgh Training school for children's librarians

The principals and teachers of English and history in the Pittsburgh high schools were guests of the Training school November 22, when Miss Mary E. Hall, librarian of the Girls' high school, Brooklyn, N. Y., gave a talk on "The administration of a high school library." Dr Davidson, superintendent of Pittsburgh schools, and Mr Craver presided at the meeting.

November 23, Miss Hall lectured to the Training school on "The work of the Girls' high-school, Brooklyn."

"Librarianship, its ideals and meaning" was the subject of a talk given by Mr James I. Wyer, Jr., director of the New York state library school, to the school November 24.

The junior class attended the address given by Dr Henry S. Pritchett, president of the Carnegie Foundation, on "Andrew Carnegie," November 24 in the Carnegie music hall. The address was part of the exercises held by the Carnegie Institute of Technology in celebration of Mr Carnegie's eightieth birthday.

Mrs Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen of Riverside, Illinois, gave ten lectures on Story telling to the Training school December 6-11.

Miss Anna MacDonald, consulting librarian of the Pennsylvania free library commission, lectured December 13 on "The work of the Pennsylvania library commission."

Students in the Junior Class were scheduled during December for practice work in the Reference Department.

December 21 to January 1 the Training school will be closed for Christmas recess.

Miss Effie Power presented a paper on "Training for library work with children" at the Normal school section of the National council of teachers of English at Chicago, Illinois, November 26.

#### Alumnae notes

Dorothy Flower, special student, '12-13, was married to Paul Benjamin Livingston November 20, 1915.

Helen Edith McCracken, '15, has been appointed assistant-in-charge of the children's room, Soho Bathe Settlement, Pittsburgh, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Martha Rodas Carter, '13.

S. C. N. BOGLE,  
Director.

#### Drexel Institute L. S. association

##### Alumnae notes

Emma L. Hellings, '01, has been appointed librarian-in-charge of the Wanamaker branch of the Free public library of Philadelphia.

Edith M. West, '06, resigned from the Crozer Theological Seminary library of Chester, Pa., and was married in July to Rev James Henry Terry, of Mt. Holly, N. J.

Katherine E. Hunt, '07, resigned her position with the Free public library of Philadelphia to accept a position in the Homestead library.

Mary Helen Jones, '12-13, has accepted a position as cataloger at the University of Pennsylvania.

The executive committee has arranged for a drop-in luncheon on the first Thursday of each month at the College club, 1300 Spruce street, Philadelphia. The first luncheon was held very informally on November 4, when 20 were present.

The officers for the new year are: President, Elizabeth V. Clark; vice-president, Florence B. Custer; secretary, Katherine M. Trimble; treasurer, Carolyn B. Perkins.

Mary Z. Cruice, '96, is in charge of the package libraries of the H. W. Wilson Company, White Plains, N. Y.

#### University of Illinois

The annual meeting of the Illinois library association held in Urbana November 3, 4 and 5, brought back to the school a large number of alumni and former students; 74 of these attended the alumni dinner and reunion, and in addition the following invited guests

were present: Director and Mrs Windsor, Miss Curtis, Mr Reece, Mr Carlton, Mr Legler, Mr Utley, Miss Massee and Mr Barr. Mr Adam Strohm, of the Detroit public library, president of the Alumni association, was toastmaster, introducing the following speakers: Director Windsor, Miss Fanny A. Noyes, 1911-12, Mrs Carrie Patton Clark, 1913, Miss Louise B. Krause, 1898, and Miss Kate D. Ferguson, 1916. The committee making the arrangements for this dinner (Miss Josie B. Houchens, 1905, chairman) deserves especial praise; in particular everyone appreciated the kodak portrait of Miss Simpson which formed the frontispiece of the menu booklet. The beautifully decorated dining room and tables won high praise for Miss Parsons of the Household Science faculty of the University.

At the close of the dinner, the committee appointed some time ago to arrange for a memorial for Miss Katharine L. Sharp, the founder of the school, recommended that the alumni try to secure a bronze bas-relief portrait of Miss Sharp for presentation to the School and University. Subscriptions have already been received amounting to \$920, much of which has been paid, and committees were appointed to collect the remaining subscriptions and to secure an artist to execute the bas-relief.

Students in the school did much to help in carrying out all of the arrangements for the successful Illinois state meeting. Classes in the school were dismissed and each student was required to write reports of certain of the sessions which she attended.

Wilfrid M. Voynich exhibited at the University of Illinois his collection of rare manuscripts and books during the week of November 8; the school was fortunate in having him give a most instructive and interesting talk on early printing illustrated by books and manuscripts from his exhibit.

W. W. Bishop, librarian of the University of Michigan, visited the university on October 28 and gave the

school a stimulating address on cataloging.

George B. Utey, secretary of the American library association, visited the school on December 2 and 3, giving two lectures, one on "The work of the A. L. A." and the other on "Recent tendencies in library work."

Miss Mary E. Hall, librarian of the Girls' high school, Brooklyn, N. Y., gave one of the principal addresses at the annual High School conference held at the University of Illinois, and under her general direction an exhibit of materials and methods in high school library work was gotten together. All students in the school heard her lecture on "The new high school library" and gained much also from the exhibit.

Miss Alice S. Tyler, director of the Western Reserve library school, lectured before the school December 10, on "The library and social service." In the evening the University library club gave an informal reception in her honor in the parlors of the Woman's building.

#### Alumni notes

Grace Barnes, '13-14, has been appointed cataloger in the University of Illinois library.

George A. Deveneau, '14-15, has been appointed assistant in charge of the Agriculture library of the University of Illinois.

Elizabeth Cass, B. L. S., '13, has accepted a position in the library of the Commonwealth Edison Co., Chicago.

Agnes Cole, B. L. S., '01, is a temporary cataloger in the John Crerar library, Chicago.

Nellie R. Roberts, B. L. S., '15, has been appointed assistant in charge of the English departmental library, University of Illinois.

Charles C. Knapp, '10-11, has been appointed cataloger in the library of Henry E. Huntington, New York City.

P. L. WINDSOR,  
Director.

#### Los Angeles public library

The training class of the Los Angeles public library opened in October with 16 students, 11 of whom were from the following: Universities of Chicago and Minnesota, Wellesley, Vassar, Occidental, Drury, Milwaukee-Downer, Los Angeles Junior colleges.

An increase in the tuition fee makes possible a number of improvements. The course has been extended in length from eight to nine months. Miss Doris Crawford, '15, has been appointed as reviser and assistant to the principal and a much needed equipment has been added.

Miss Helen Haines will teach book selection, in addition to the courses conducted by her last year. The course in library work with children will cover 20 lectures by Miss Britton.

The chief event of the opening days was a lecture by Mrs. Gudrun Thorn-Thomson on The adaption of the story, illustrated by her own interpretation of some well-known children's stories.

#### New York public library

Dr Frank Weitenkampf of the staff spoke to the juniors on November 12 and 17, on Prints, accompanying his lecture with slides. Framed and labelled examples of the etching, line and wood engraving, lithograph, mezzotint, and colored lithograph, have been hung on the walls of the lecture-room as a permanent exhibit.

The school was fortunate in securing a talk from Mr J. I. Wyer, on "Librarianship, its work and its ideals," and from Mr W. W. Bishop on "Cataloging as an asset," during their brief visits to the city.

Mr Herman Rosenthal gave the juniors his address on "The Golden Age of Russian literature," on November 24. This address wins always an added interest because of Mr Rosenthal's personal acquaintance with several of the greatest literary personages of Russia.

Mr Andrew S. Edson, associate superintendent of schools for the greater city, spoke to the class on November 29, on "Some educational experiments in New York City schools." Naturally the one occupying most of the speaker's attention was the "Work-study-play school," now being tried in Bronx Borough.

Miss Mary O. White gave a lecture on "Book-reviews" to the juniors, on December 1.

Mr F. W. Faxon, of the Boston Book



Company, being in town on December 3, was invited to speak to the junior class on the work of that Company in completing sets of periodicals.

Miss Annie C. Moore of the staff, described the work of The New York public library for children, on December 8, accompanying the description with slides.

Mr H. W. Kent, of the Metropolitan museum, gave the last junior lecture of the term, December 10, on "The modern museum."

The juniors have formed their class organization and elected the following officers: Perrie Jones (Minnesota), president; and Mabel Bien (Washington, D. C.), secretary-treasurer.

Samuel Seng, of the senior class, has recently been honored with a scholarship awarded by the Chinese government to enable him to continue his studies for the coming year. It is interesting to know that these scholarships are made possible by the return to China of the indemnity granted the United States after the Boxer troubles. The amount has been put into an Indemnity fund, and is used for scholarships in the United States. Mr Seng is taking unpaid practice at Columbia University library.

The juniors are preparing a box of Christmas cards and have made toys to send to Mr Gossage for the Christmas festivities for the Belgian camp in Holland. (See p. 24)

George S. Maynard (1915) has been engaged for temporary work by the library of the American society of Civil Engineers.

Mignon Tyler (junior, 1914) has been engaged as children's librarian by the Los Angeles Public Library.

Theodore Avó-Lallemant has been appointed to the staff of the Research Division of the National Americanization Committee, with headquarters in New York.

The Christmas vacation began on December 22, and school reopens January 3.

MARY W. PLUMMER,  
Principal.

#### New York state library

The faculty have unanimously voted to have the school year begin hereafter on the third Wednesday of September and close on the second Wednesday of June. This earlier opening will permit much greater elasticity in the schedule and will permit other changes of advantage to the school.

The seniors are engaged in preparing study club outlines under the direction of Mr C. F. Porter of the Traveling Libraries section. The subject for the year is Spain. The outlines include suggested programs for clubs as well as lists of suitable references for such programs, and when completed are used by the Traveling Libraries section in its work with organized study clubs throughout the state.

The shelf practice of the juniors, under the direction of Miss Woodworth, is this year largely devoted to work in the many different collections of library material which are located in the library school rooms. The result has been not only a very great variety of material and methods available for practice, but a much better knowledge on the part of the students of the unusual resources available in the many special collections arranged by Miss Wordsworth.

The students received, through the courtesy of the Drama society of Albany, free tickets to a lecture given Nov. 23 by Granville Barker on "The new ideals of the drama." Through the Drama society, the students receive special rates to many of the best productions appearing in the city.

About 25 of the students who stayed in Albany over the Thanksgiving holiday, held a holiday dinner at the New Kenmore on Thanksgiving night. Misses Hawkins and Sanderson of the faculty were guests.

The Christmas recess will begin Dec. 22 and end Jan. 2.

A post-card from Asa Don Dickinson ('04), states that he has organized a library training class of 21 members at the University of Punjab, Lahore. Several of the members of the class will be

retained on his staff to organize the library of the university.

F. K. WALTER.

#### Pratt institute

Story-telling has never had a place in the curriculum of the school, though some more or less regular work has formerly been carried on by volunteers at the Greenpoint settlement as part of the work of the Library chapter of the Neighborhood association. This year, however, more systematic work has been undertaken. During the first part of the term each student attended one of the regular story hours in the children's room to see what it is like. After all had seen a story hour in operation, an elective course in story-telling was offered to those who inclined toward children's work. Eight elected the course which includes opportunity for each student to conduct two or three story hours for small groups of children under Miss Cowing's supervision, while the class as a whole meets each alternate week for suggestions and discussion. So, though they do not hear each other's stories, they all have the benefit of the discussion and criticism of methods.

Shortly after this work had been started the class had the privilege of attending three lectures on story-telling given by Miss Marie Shedlock, at Columbia university, through the courtesy of Mr Milton J. Davies, of Columbia university.

Mr J. I. Wyer, Jr., director of the New York state library, gave the class a very inspiring talk on "Library ideals" on Tuesday afternoon, November 16.

Miss Sarah B. Askew, class of 1904, organizer of the New Jersey public library commission, spoke before the class on November 30 on "Opportunities of the commission worker." Miss Askew was good enough to tell three or four stories after the tea which followed the lecture. The class was also invited to attend a story hour given by Miss Askew at the Y. W. C. A. that same evening, and a number availed

themselves of the opportunity of hearing her again.

Dr Frank P. Hill gave the School his annual talk on the Brooklyn public library system on December 7.

Miss Edith Wynne Matthison read before the student body of the Institute on Thursday afternoon, November 18. Her selection comprised the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet and the work of a group of representative modern poets.

Louis O'Neill, assistant librarian of the Insular library of Porto Rico, who spent three months at the School in 1912, visited us on December 8, bringing with him the plans for their new library building.

#### Alumni notes

Miss Lillian Burt, '02, cataloger at the Pacific Unitarian school for the ministry at Berkeley, California, has gone for a year to the Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas, as head of the loan and reference department.

Adeline Cartwright, '13, was married November 3 to Lieutenant George Bayly, of the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Lieutenant Bayly was wounded at Ypres in April and invalided home. His leave expires in January and Mrs Bayly expects to sail with her husband to England early in the new year.

Mr Carson Brevoort, '15, was made an assistant in the public documents division of the reference department of the New York public library.

Miss Mildred MacCarthy, class of 1915, who has been doing a temporary piece of work in the cataloging department of the library, has been appointed to the cataloging department of the Philadelphia public library.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,  
Vice-Director.

#### Simmons college

The Thanksgiving recess and the Christmas holiday, extending from December 21 to January 4, render this season of the year well beloved, but make school work rather fragmentary.

The Library economy class enjoyed a

visit to the factory of the Library Bureau, where they saw both uniformity and variety of supplies, and they also had a glimpse of the busy work with foreigners in the North End and East Boston branches of the Boston public library during their hours there one afternoon.

In their class work they are encountering the difficulties of alphabeting, as, armed with a syllabus on the subject by Miss Hyde, each struggles with a set of cards as full of snags as can be devised. Accession and shelf are also part of the month's schedule.

Miss Mary Hall gave a stirring talk on the possibilities of work in the libraries of high schools, which was supplemented the next week by a timely exhibit of the material illustrating this topic which was prepared for the New Jersey library commission, to whom the school is indebted for the loan of it.

The fact that many of the students are doing some of their practice work in the Girls' Latin School library will make this a more vital topic to them.

#### Appointments

Margaret Ridlon, '12, has resigned her position as assistant in the Simmons College library, to accept that of assistant in the catalog department in the University of Chicago library. While the college library and the school will regret Miss Rildon's loss, all wish her good fortune in her new work, which is in her home city.

Ruth Eaton, '15, is engaged in reorganizing work in the South Natick library.

Jennie C. Frost, '14-15, is reorganizing the library of Normal school for training teachers for the feeble-minded, at Waverley, Mass.

Margaret Gilman, '04-05, who has been specializing in art, is doing private work for the director of the Fogg Art museum.

Lucy Luard, '15, is cataloging public documents in the State library, of Massachusetts.

Elizabeth Putnam, '11, has been appointed children's librarian in the Salem public library, to succeed Ruth Shattuck, '10, who has resigned on account of her health.

Elfriede Sander, '02-05, has resigned from the Arnold Arboretum library to join the reference-cataloging staff of the New York public library.

Edna Winn, '06, has accepted the position of librarian of the Research laboratories of the General Electric Company at Schenectady.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,  
Director.

#### Syracuse university

Richard T. Wyche, president of the Story-tellers' league of America, lectured before the school recently on Joel Chandler Harris and the making of literature. Mr Wyche told several of the Uncle Remus stories and by his illustration of the principles of story telling gave better instruction in that fine art than if he had presented a learned discourse full of wise precepts.

Azariah S. Root, librarian of Oberlin college, gave a lecture November 5 on The administration of a college library.

The courses in children's work given by Miss Thorne have been strengthened by the addition of 350 volumes of children's books to the school library.

Miss Nettie Paletz of the class of '15 has been made assistant in the library of the Polytechnic institute at Troy, N. Y.

E. E. SPERRY,  
Director.

#### Western Reserve university

The students have had various points of view of the library field presented by the lecturers of the past month. Mrs Eleanor Ledbetter, librarian of the Broadway branch of the Cleveland public library, whose library is located in the midst of a varied foreign population, spoke on "Our foreign citizens and their European homes." Mr Arne Kildal, librarian of the Public library of Bergen, Norway, told of "Library work in Norway", and illustrated with lantern slides of the new library building being erected in Bergen and other Norwegian library buildings. The subject of "The great war and the humanities" was interestingly presented by Mr J. I. Wyer, Jr, director of the New York State library school. "The non-technical side of library work" was discussed by Mr Adam Strohm, librarian of the Detroit public library. Through the courtesy of the Cleveland public library training class, Mrs Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen was heard in her presentation of the comparison of the classic and modern fairy tales.

The Director lectured at the University of Illinois library school on December 10.

A number of enjoyable social functions which have afforded a pleasant diversion from the regular routine have been given during the month. On November 20, the Director entertained with afternoon tea at her home. Miss Norma Harrison formerly head of the Public Speaking department of the University of Iowa gave several delightful readings. The faculty, students and friends have been finding it very pleasant to call on Miss Howe at her home on the "first Saturdays." The school had as guests on December 2, Miss Margaret Mann and Miss Bertha Randall of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh. Both gave interesting and practical talks about their work, after which an informal tea was given. Preceding the Thanksgiving recess a social hour planned by the six Cleveland students in honor of the out of town members of the class was given in the lecture room of the School.

ALICE S. TYLER, Director.

### As to Cataloging

Hitchler, Theresa.

Cataloging for small libraries. Rev. ed. A. L. A. pub. board, 1915. 316p. \$1.25.

To one conversant with the literature of the subject, it is surprising to find in the present volume no acknowledgment of direct quotations made from other cataloging codes, though, in so many cases, the phraseology is identical with that of Cataloging rules by Miss J. D. Fellows, that the very spirit of that work seems present here. There is also material taken from the A. L. A. Catalog rules, notably in the list of definitions at the end of the book. It may be in the interest of progress to build upon the work of others, and this is legitimate and expedient to a certain extent, but when a work so incorporates another as to appear almost an adaptation of it there can be no question as to the formalities which are due. Moreover, misapprehensions and complications may arise when such recognition is not made, as the careful student has a right to know the source of his authority, and much

of the value of this work for reference is lost because of this omission.

From the explicit and detailed explanations, the large amount of extraneous matter thrown in, and the manner of treating certain points like subject headings, one is led to presume that it was the author's intention to supply a book which would meet the requirements of untrained or partly trained catalogers, as these are they, of course, who need the dogmatic and exact statement of practice, rather than an array of rules presenting alternatives and exceptions to suit personal taste, available funds or "type of library." Directions to untrained people must be clear, accurate and consistent. It is only after long experience that one acquires the cataloging imagination and becomes able to grasp quickly the principles underlying the subject and to formulate these, omitting no details. For these reasons, and because the purpose of the book is so admirable, it is especially deplorable, that, in a treatise covering the subject so amply and shedding light upon so many difficulties, any occasion should be found to question the judgment of the author or to criticise the meaning of any part as obscure.

In general, the book seems to be the result of hasty work, many examples are unfortunately chosen, and it also appears that the informal style in which the subject is treated places too little emphasis upon the distinction between principles and details. These are points which inexperienced catalogers are slow to discern, yet they are most necessary to any independent work. This could perhaps have been obviated to some extent by a different typographical arrangement. The usefulness of the book, for the young cataloger, is also greatly curtailed by the large number of sample cards, very few of which bear any legend describing their application. This is especially regrettable in analytics, where in one case, nine examples illustrate the same principle, for the same book, in exactly the same way. One finger points a di-

rection with more emphasis than nine.

In considering some special features of the book which appear inconsistent, inaccurate, or not in accord with the generally accepted practice of today, the order of the book has been generally followed, so far as practicable.

The inventory taken by the shelf list will be greatly expedited if accession numbers are arranged in columns on the shelf list cards instead of in paragraphs as indicated by samples given on pages 4-6.

When noblemen's names are entered under title (p. 17) only the initials of their forenames and family names are used with these, and we have Beaconsfield, B. D., 1st earl of, Chesterfield, P. D. S., 4th earl of, Tennyson, A. T., 1st baron, Avebury, J. L., 1st baron. There are obvious reasons why this might result in confusion or worse, especially as no references are advised.

There is a departure from the usual method of capitalizing book titles on p. 22 where directions are given to "Capitalize the first word of the title and the word following if the first is an article." This may be done to facilitate arrangement, but the curves enclosing the article ought to suffice for this.

Under the question of annotating catalog cards the "American Catalog" is mentioned as a source for such notes. Very few small libraries could afford this when it was in print, certainly after five years, copies would be very difficult to secure.

Much of chapter V, the discussion of subject entries, is misleading. For example, it is stated that "Countries, states and cities are not given in the A. L. A. list," though the introduction to that book makes it very plain that the subheads as given under United States, except for history, may serve as a model for any country. The subheads under history are given also for a few countries, of which the small library might contain enough history material to require subheads in the catalog, and for cities, an excellent list of subheads is given to be used with the

name of any city. On p. 38 it is surprising to find the statement to the effect that periodicals and literary essays are completely analyzed for us by "Poole's Index," "Cumulative Index to Periodicals" and the A. L. A. index to general literature. (note capitalization) It seems needless to remark here that the "Readers' Guide took over the work of the "Cumulative Index to Periodicals" in 1903. On p. 39 it is advised that, when time permits, entry under both country and subject is desirable. Perhaps libraries that started in this way some years ago may still keep it up, but it seems to be the consensus of opinion that the best usage to-day is to follow the practice of the Library of Congress or the A. L. A. list as mentioned above. Mr. Bishop in his Practical handbook of modern library cataloging says on this subject: "A consistent policy with regard to this class of subject headings which will rigorously enter under *either* the topic *or* the country is demanded in the interests alike of economy and of common sense. Whatever decision is taken, a reference must be made from the opposite form. . . . At no other point of subject catalog work is definite adherence to a fixed rule more necessary than here. A decision once taken in this matter should be rigidly executed."

There is the admonition on p. 40 "Stick to the A. L. A. 'List of Subject headings' as far as possible," but the next paragraph advises the young cataloger to "group closely related subjects under a combined heading when possible." This seems unnecessary advice because the A. L. A. list has done this very consistently.

Careful study of the discussion (p. 40-41) of the subject reference cards as used in the Brooklyn public library where a general reference is made from the subject to the books on the shelves, in place of making subject cards for individual books classifying in that subject, leaves one in doubt as to the real intention of the writer. After a seeming recommendation that



a "see also" be made from the subjects to the books on the shelves, this statement follows "for the borrower who desires to know what the library has on a certain subject such references are not of much value. . . so unless the shelf list is available I do not recommend the use of such references." Now it is not plain why a reader should be referred to the shelves when the shelf list is public. The matter of modification for subject entries was discussed in *Library Journal* 28: 21-22 by Miss Tyler where she advocated this reference: "For entire books on this subject see shelf list. Class. no. . . ." which seems to gain the ends desired, viz. a saving of time and material in making subject cards, without unnecessary trouble to the borrower.

The paragraph treating of subject vs. form entry for poetry, drama, fiction, etc., leaves much to be desired. It would seem better for the small library to use Drama for form entry, if desirable to group all plays in one place, and Drama (Books about) or Drama Criticism, for works about the drama. Many libraries omit the entries under form entirely.

In many places in the text and on many sample cards these notes, to be used on subject and other added entry cards, are advocated: "For contents see the main card," "For volumes and dates contained in the library see the main card." Of course "main card" means nothing to the wayfaring man, and most catalogers avoid using any statement that would be understood only by those having a technical knowledge of the subject.

It is not quite plain if the list of subheads under countries, on p. 45, is recommended as one to be followed by the small library or shown here as an illustration of what might be. Just why Description and travel, Constitution, and History appear out of their alphabetical places in the list is not apparent, nor does it seem necessary for the small library to multiply subheads as 19th Century, Later 19th Century,

20th Century, Modern, all of which are included here.

Under joint authors (chapter IX) one notes the omission of the comma usually placed before the *and* in the heading. This seems to work out all right in that chapter, but in an example on p. 170 it is difficult to disentangle Bowmer, Ronald, Hitchcock, Ronald and Morant, Geoffrey. Here it is plain why the use of the comma in that place is always justified.

On the sample cards for periodicals and other continuations, if the usual custom had been followed of putting in italics all items which are to be made in pencil, it would have obviated some difficulties which might arise with those unfamiliar with the practice in this regard. On p. 117-18 there is a striking example of this on the card for the "Cyclopedia of American government" where the date and imprint are written "1914—v.1-3." This is especially misleading as on p. 115 directions read "Imprint, etc. is given for cyclopedias and dictionaries as for any ordinary book."

There is no explanation and apparently no reason for printing a part of the main entries for some periodicals in one style of type and entire entries for other periodicals in type of another face.

In the chapter (XIV), on corporate entries, advice is given to enter government publications in the inverted form. Yet on p. 141 on the sample card for the New York (City) Bureau of municipal research, (which seems to be the only example where the inverted form would be necessary) the direct form is used. In this chapter it might have been helpful had there been some explanation of the cases where form entry is used for the main entry in place of the name of the department or bureau responsible for the publication. Instead, it is stated that treaties are entered under *name* (sic) and no mention is made of laws, charters, constitutions or ordinances, which are equally important, and as likely to be found in the small library as texts of treaties.

The rule (p. 135) for entering under the personal author where the government merely publishes the book is abrogated on p. 280 where the Bibliography of co-operative cataloging is entered under the U. S. Library of Congress.

For works requiring analytics the student is advised to give the title of the first part of the book only on the main card. Many catalogers insist that the main card shall show (in most cases) exactly what is on the title page.

The example (p. 179) illustrating the short form of subject analytic (where the author of the analytic is also the author of the whole book) is unhappily chosen, as it does not come under any of the cases as given on p. 157 where this form is applicable.

It is also quite disconcerting to find two very different definitions for an independent, p. 184 and 299, and a third statement that of "books bound together" p. 152, which might be confused with the other two.

One chapter is devoted to "Practical hints." Here are several points to be noted. Red ink for cross references "even for names of individuals when they are treated as subject headings" would be inconsistent as soon as that heading had been used as an author heading. It would seem better to follow the usual plan of writing all headings which may be used for authors in black ink.

The 33 R (33032) catalog card of the Library Bureau is recommended. Here is a matter that cannot be dismissed with so short a word. If the typewriter is used, a thinner card is preferable as it conforms more easily to the platen and receives the impression of the type more clearly. There is also the question of the added space required for storage.

Guides with celluloid tops cost from \$32.00 to \$35.00 per thousand, and few small libraries could afford them. An article in *New York Libraries* 4:23 states that the subjects on these (in standard sets) follow the A. L. A. list but that the author headings follow the Library of Congress headings. These

could not then be used with the inverted form for government publications.

The spacing on the sample cards here given does not conform to the directions indicated on pages 23 and 156. The ruling also of the sample cards is unusual. There seems no good reason for changing the standard ruling of the Library Bureau cards especially as some typewriters offering very satisfactory devices for holding the card securely against the platen will not write so near the top as these samples indicate, because the metal trip which holds the card interferes with the type bar, and the upper half of the letter is cut off. Moreover, manuscript cards to be filed with the Library of Congress cards should, as nearly as possible, conform to these in spacing as well as in type used.

The use of capitals followed here seems to be according to no fixed rules. As on the same page one finds Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Library and Buffalo (N. Y.) Public library, and occasionally capitals thrown in to accentuate some particular point or to make some citation more emphatic.

These points, some of which a more careful editing could have eliminated are indicated here to call attention to phases of the book which could be improved in future editions.

CAROLINE WANDELL,

Syracuse university, Syracuse, N. Y.

In a library in which works of fiction were arranged in alphabetic order, the cards showing the first and last names of the sequence of authors affixed to the ends of the book stacks, occurred a humorous incident recently. A card attached to the first of a group of stacks happened to have on it: "Fiction: About to Burgin"—the first and last authors being Edmond About and G. B. Burgin. A lady came in, passed the time of day with the assistant, caught sight of this particular guide card and remarked: "What a funny notice, 'Fiction about to begin.'"—*Book Monthly*.

### News from the Field East

A recent report of the Public library commission of Massachusetts on its two years' work developing loyalty among aliens forms the most interesting account of what Miss Campbell and her assistants have done during the year. Miss Campbell sought first hand knowledge of what was needed by holding conferences in the large places with leaders of the various nationalities and asked them point blank what they would like the public library to do for the people. Invariably the response was they wanted books in their own language, giving information on the United States and books to help the immigrant to learn English. In response to this, foreign traveling libraries were made up. The books were in French, Italian and Polish. In a short time, there were more calls than could possibly be supplied. The Italians have taken a deep interest and they themselves have donated Italian books to a number of the libraries. Various instances are cited of foreigners being made more reliant, increasing their earning capacity and more satisfied because more intelligent concerning all surroundings. Lectures in the libraries in the language of the alien population have been popular. Great stress is laid on the deplorable lack of books on practical farming, biographies of Washington and other leading Americans and books relating to citizenship in a democracy. So far, the report states, it has been the politicians that have trained foreigners for citizenship. Massachusetts has made a start towards having the educational force do this work, but only a start when compared with what is possible to have done and will undoubtedly be done in the future.

### Central Atlantic

Lydia M. Poirier, formerly librarian of Duluth, Minn., and Edward M. Goddard were married in New York City, December 15.

Florence Wilkie, N. Y. State, '14-'15, has received an appointment as assistant in the library of the U. S. bureau of mines, Washington, D. C.

The Headington branch library building of the Free library of Philadelphia was opened to the public with a reception on Friday evening, December 3.

On October 16 the James V. Brown library of Williamsport, Pa., opened, the third of the stations to be established by the Brown library since it commenced operation in 1907. The three stations, which are operated through the aid of other organizations, are treated as branch libraries, the collection of books not being changed.

Ephraim Deinard, traveling representative of the Library of Congress, has returned and reports many indignities offered him by the Turks in his recent journey through their country. Mr Deinard left for the Holy Land in May, 1914 to collect rare books and manuscripts for the Library of Congress, as well as material for the Smithsonian institute. He gathered 71 cases of books, but when he attempted to return to this country last spring, he was prevented by the Turkish authorities. The Turks censored his books and suspecting he was engaged in some conspiracy imprisoned him at Jaffa. After appearing before court martial three times and languishing in cells between times, Mr Deinard, who is past 70 years of age, was freed on condition that he leave the books behind him and leave the country. He will lay his case before the state department.

The report of the Princeton University library records accessions, 41,239 v.; pamphlets 21,375. A list of gifts for the year showed a number of noteworthy collections, among them, the Pliny Fisk statistical library, the Paton collection of books on Egypt and Eastern Asia, the Cook collection of chess literature—all collections of great distinction in their several lines. Including all of these the grand total of accessions was 172,919 items; expenditures, \$57,100, of this \$21,923 was for books and binding and \$23,690 for salaries. Circulation was 71,984. With the increase of students, professors, courses, books and methods

of using the library, it is estimated that it would take about 30,000 to 40,000 more hours' work than there are means to pay for during the year to properly care for the books and other items of library service. Only the amount of work secured through students' help largely kept the library from being swamped. A total of 40 v. were received through inter library loan.

#### Central

Emily K. Colwell, B.L.S., N. Y. State, '15, has been appointed assistant in the Ohio state library.

Winifred Riggs, N. Y. State, '04, has been appointed first assistant in the East Cleveland public library.

Jennie A. Craig, B.L.S., Illinois, '09, for the past four years assistant in charge of the English departmental library, University of Illinois, has accepted the position of catalog reviser in the general library.

The Board of curators of the State historical society of Iowa has made plans by which the publications of the society will be placed in 150 libraries in Iowa designated as depositories for the historical society.

Viola C. Fraser, Illinois, '12-'13, resigned her position as loan desk assistant in the University of Illinois library and was married to Dr Lynn B. Vaughn, November 16, 1915, in Downer's Grove, Illinois. Dr and Mrs Vaughn are at home in Hurley, South Dakota.

Mrs Elizabeth C. Earl has been appointed president of the Public library commission of Indiana. Mrs Earl has been a member of the commission since its establishment in 1899 and was largely instrumental in the formation of the commission as she has been in most of the good things that the commission has done since.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the recent meeting of the Illinois library association, the following persons have been appointed for the committee to evolve a plan for coöperation between the libraries and schools in Illinois; H. E. Legler, chairman, Mary J.

Booth, Fanny Jackson, Irene Warren, Prof. J. Hughes Johnson, James F. Hoscic, P. L. Windsor, Mary Day, J. M. C. Hanson, Mabel Fletcher and Mary Eileen Ahern.

A very comprehensive report of the recreational survey made at Madison, Wis., by a special committee of the Madison Board of commerce has been issued. A representative committee of the various interests in Madison was appointed by the Madison Board of commission to support and determine the nature and scope of the survey. A striking fact in connection with the survey is that, notwithstanding the many library activities carried on in Madison, the library interests are not represented on the committee.

A novel display for library advertising was a pile of hundreds of worn out books displayed in a store window in Huntington, Ind. They were taken from the library shelves—every department of the library being represented. Placards bearing inscriptions, as follows, were grouped about the heap of battered books:

There are 2000 more books in the library—Get a card and read some of them.

These books were worn out last winter, but you may be interested in our new ones. Circulation in 1913, 41,402; in 1914, 50,761. Goodness knows what it will be in 1915!

Mrs W. T. Porter, wife of W. T. Porter, president of the Cincinnati library board, died October 4. Mr and Mrs Porter attended the A. L. A. meeting in Berkeley in June. On the way home while in Los Angeles they both met with an accident—being struck by a motorcycle. Mrs Porter was in delicate health and the shock of the accident was so great that she never entirely recovered and gradually grew worse until her death. Mr Porter, himself, has been quite seriously ill in the hospital but is slowly recovering.

The annual report of the Library of Congress states that the war in Europe has caused a decrease in the number of accessions as compared to former years. The number of books added was 110,564; number of volumes in the library,

2,363,873; maps and charts, 142,553; there are 726,808 v. and pieces of music and 285,757 prints.

Special mention is made of the death of Mr Arthur Jeffrey Parsons on November 5, 1915, who had been chief of the Division of prints for 15 years and who rendered valuable service to the library.

An extended account of the first year's activities of the new legislative reference division is given. Data bearing on prospective legislation for the use of Congress, the committee and individual members and its distribution, as called for by the same, form an interesting record of work. A valuable gift of rare books, pamphlets and manuscript maps was received from Henry Harris, historian. The collection is the result of 40 years of effort in the field of American history and includes many original manuscript maps of different parts on the American continent of an early day. The manuscripts of the late John Boyd Fletcher, the papers of Edward Lee Plumb, formerly secretary of the American legation of Mexico, the papers of George Mason were included and a print of the report of details of the Constitution of the United States in the writing of John Rutledge were acquired. Other interesting items were diaries—one of Edmund Ruffin, 25 v., who was selected to fire the first gun at Ft. Sumter, was also received. The correspondence of Peter Force, 1818-65, was added by purchase.

The biennial report of the Wisconsin library commission is evidently an effort to convey as concisely as possible a clear impression of the activities of the commission. The report is brief and the chapter and paragraph headings aid in an analysis of its contents.

The commission has extended its lending facilities not only through the traveling libraries, but where ordinary traveling libraries cannot be cared for, such as lumber camps, making extensive use of the parcel post system. In the mail delivery system, the commission has secured the coöperation of the State university and Historical society

libraries, so that a large supply of books is made available to the state.

A computation concerning the work which the library school students have done in the public libraries of the state during the biennial period, places a value on it in the aggregate of \$8,000. Out of 31 in the class of 1913, 29 had positions at the time of graduation; in the class of 1914, 26 had received appointment prior to graduation. Of the 202 graduated from the school since its beginning, only four are recorded as temporarily out of positions, while two are not recommended because of lack of efficiency. Twenty-three have abandoned the library profession and married.

The statistical tables are interesting. The salary is given of each chief librarian in the state as well as of all assistants. It is possible to discover from these tables how much of the resources of each library is spent for books, janitor service, periodicals, etc.

A list of library buildings, giving the name of the donor, the amount devoted to the building, annual maintenance fund provided, shows that many communities are devoting considerably more than 10 per cent to the maintenance of their libraries.

There were 198 new and resumed traveling library stations opened during the year; 1,258 requests for traveling libraries were filled, and 773 distinct rural communities have traveling library stations. A map of the state gives the location of all of these stations.

The annual report of the Public library of Hibbing, Minn., shows a gain in circulation of 37.3 per cent over the previous year. Of these, 10,774 more books of non-fiction were issued than last year. There were 9,246 volumes added to the library. Circulation reached 71,128. The number of books in foreign languages loaned doubled during the year. There are 3,035 active users of the library. The following methods of publicity work were followed:

A booth at the St. Louis county fair was furnished as a reading room with at-



tendant in charge; a bulletin board on the sidewalk in front of the library during September and October held war periodicals, maps and attractive news items; moving picture shows showed slides of the library and its resources. The slides displayed were in the Swedish, Finnish, Italian and Croatian languages. Printed cards, often in foreign languages, giving the hours of opening, location of library were framed and placed in depots, restaurants, barber shops, halls, saloons and shops frequented by foreigners; victrola concerts on each Sunday afternoon. A collection of books and posters at the child welfare exhibit; a store window exhibit for one week. Distribution of lists of books for foreigners learning languages and easy books which might be borrowed from the library were distributed in the night schools. The club room of the library was used practically every week day night during the winter months. Deposit stations in ten places resulted in a circulation of 3660 v. Books were sent to graduates of high schools to continue their reading. Postal cards were sent out to boys and girls who had not used their library cards for four months. The library has several thousand pictures in its collection as well as a number of postal card and stereopticon views.

#### South

A fully equipped library for the Louisville boys' high school, under joint control of the Board of education and Board of trustees of the Louisville free public library, has been planned.

Mrs Kate Pleasants Miner, for some time reference librarian of the Virginia state library, has resigned her position and will go to China. Mrs Miner prepared the index to the files of papers of the Virginia historical society on a check list of Virginia newspapers published before the war.

A library club has been organized by the staff of the library of the University of Texas. Monthly meetings are planned with programs of professional and cultural value. Membership is limited to those engaged in library

work in the university and city of Austin.

#### Pacific Coast

Edith E. Clarke, N. Y. State, '89, has gone to California to assist in the Riverside winter library school.

Miss Maud Macpherson, for a long time connected with the State library at Washington and who substituted the past year for Miss Cornelia Marvin during her leave of absence, has been appointed librarian of the Public library at Boise, Idaho. She will begin her work January 1.

Loring P. Rixford of San Francisco has been chosen as architect of the new library building of Sacramento out of a group of 56 architects. The exterior of the building is planned on the lines of the Italian renaissance. The city had a gift of \$100,000 from the Carnegie corporation for the building several years ago.

#### Canada

The corner stone of the new municipal library building to be erected in Montreal was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Saturday, November 22. Addresses were made by Lieut. Governor LeBlanc, Sir Lomer Gouin, Bishop Gauthier and Alderman Dubeau, acting mayor of the city.

The report of the Fraser Institute of Montreal, which is the public library for the city, records the annual income as \$16,385; expenditures, \$13,479. Of this \$5,500 is spent for salaries. During the year, 88,319 persons used the reference circulating room. Number of books in library, 74,083.

The Military Camp branch of the Public library of Toronto has been opened at the Exhibition grounds camp and is proving of great interest and benefit to the soldiers. It is in the same building as the Canteen and the reading and writing rooms managed by the Y. M. C. A. The combination makes social headquarters.

The Provincial library of Victoria, B. C., moved into its new quarters in

June. The building is one of the wings of the Provincial government building, the corner stone of which was laid by the Duke of Connaught in 1912. The entrance into the library at the end of the hall leads into a beautiful rotunda which is really magnificent in size and proportion, handsomely constructed of marble and concrete. Perhaps one would be justified in saying that, for the size of the library, there is far too much space given to this in comparison with the dimensions of the rooms where the public are expected to use the material of the library. A door opposite the entrance leads into the stack room which is several stories high—being above and below this delivery hall. In front of the door of the stack room is a delivery counter over which the books from the stacks may be obtained from the several floors by use of an automatic electric lift. To the right and left of the rotunda are the reading and reference rooms. The rooms are not large but are handsomely furnished. Special collection rooms are adjoining the reference and reading rooms where historians and others doing research work may have privacy and such material as they want brought to them. This library is particularly rich in historical material relating to the Northwest and its archives, considering the age of the collection, are complete along many lines.

There are also rooms for the record workers in the library service, for the legislative reference library and for the traveling library department. This latter has done remarkably fine work in view of the cramped quarters, insufficient maintenance fund and lack of clerical helpers under which it has suffered. The new quarters of the library will give more room for all lines of activity and the indefatigable Mr Scholefield, provincial librarian of British Columbia, has pledged himself to bring up the work of the institution to a degree commensurate with the surroundings in which it is to be carried on.

### Foreign

Maja Schaanning, N. Y. State, '12-'13, has resigned the librarianship of the public library at Kristiansand, Norway, to become librarian of the newly organized library at Drammen.

Ragnhild Retvedt, N. Y. State, '14-'15, who returned to Norway in September to become an assistant in the technical high school library at Trondhjem, has received an appointment as assistant in the new public library at Drammen.

The annual report for 1914 of the *Uppsala* university library (Dr. Aksel Andersson, ln.) shows a year of normal progress (9000 volumes), with several important gifts of selections of books and manuscripts.

W. C. Berwick-Sayres, formerly chief assistant of Croyden, public libraries but for several months in charge of the Wallasey public libraries, has accepted the invitation of the Croyden library committee to return to Croyden as chief librarian.

Mr J. Stanley Jast, for ten years honorable secretary of the Library association (English), has resigned the position on account of his resignation also as librarian of Croyden. The English library periodicals speak in the highest terms of the accomplishment of Mr Jast during his secretaryship and without doubt his contribution to the development of library progress in Great Britain has been worthy of highest commendation. Mr Jast has accepted an appointment in charge of the Reference library in Manchester and is associate with Mr Sutton the librarian.

The annual report of the Public library of the Borough of Workington, England, notes a very decided increase in the use of the reading rooms and a decrease in the number of volumes issued for home reading. Over 700 persons visit the reading rooms daily and 17,469 volumes of bound magazines and periodicals were used, in addition to the current material of the press. The total number of books in the library is 16,244 v.

The annual report of the Public libraries of Leeds, England, records the total number of volumes issued from all departments 1,326,411; of these 120,481 were used in the reference department; 221,182 were borrowed from the central library for home use and from the branch libraries 846,478 volumes; 138,270 were used in the juvenile reading rooms. In the class of books used there was an increase in magazines and sociology and a decrease in all other sections except fiction, this is increased from 46.6 per cent to 48.37 per cent. This may be taken as a result of the physical strain of the times through which the country is passing. The open access system has given great satisfaction where used and further development of it in the library will follow. "Half hour talks with children" were given during the winter months. For the older children, the talks took the form of story cycles including Robin Hood, King Arthur and plays of Shakespeare. For the juniors, talks were on fairy tales of various countries: Kingsley's *Water Babies* and *Stories from Dickens* and Maeterlinck. Over 5,000 children attended these stories. A number of models and illustrations were placed on exhibition. These were of much interest and helped the children to better understand the subjects of the talks. Total number of books in the library, 327,210. There were 1,868,889 visitors to the rooms—an increase of 600,000 over the previous year.

### The New Freedom

In October, 1910, we took the first step towards relieving fiction reading of the stigma that had adhered to this altogether natural and commendable practice during the years that it had been a free library's mission to improve the reading taste of the public by censorship and restraint. On that date the historic limitation of "one novel at a time" was broken down, and it became permissible to draw two works of fiction on a single card. Observing the advantageous result of waiving our preconception of what was "good for" the public in deference to the expectations the people entertained of a free library's value to them, we made bold

on February 4, 1915, to proclaim fiction's full emancipation.

Assuming that our adult borrowers come to the library with an intelligent purpose, we have made our free library still freer by a liberty of choice and action as to which of the books, offered with ostensible freedom on our shelves, the borrowers may elect to read to satisfy their own requirements in reading. The books are placed on our shelves to be taken away and read. Who shall say that it is wiser for a reader to take more of one sort or another at a particular time?

It happened that the first borrower to approach the charging desk, after the new freedom went into effect, was a school teacher sated with the study and improvement of mind which it is the higher purpose of the library to make possible. She brought to the desk five novels, chosen to meet her immediate need of diversion, and asked which she might have. When told that she could take any or all as she preferred, she discovered for the first time the full significance of a free library to an intelligent user of books.

This indulgence does not mean that the newest novels widely in demand by the reputation of their first advertising can be appropriated by handfuls by a single individual. The "seven-day" books are still issued only one on a card in justice to all comers, the duplicate pay collection providing for the impatient. Furthermore, in this respect as in others, we feel that immature readers should not be given quite the same liberty as the older users of the library. Young people under eighteen who have been admitted to the general library now have their cards stamped Y, and with these the limit of two novels at one time still holds.

But the separation of fiction from "non-fiction," as the goats from the sheep, no longer prevails in our fellowship of books. Nor does the maintenance of a low "fiction percentage" by artificial restrictions seem deserving of further anxiety. It is interesting to note that fiction percentage for the year was not affected by the new liberality. The average appropriation of fiction read since 1908 has been 52 per cent each year.—*Pratt Institute free library report for 1914-1915.*

"The year is closed—the record made,  
The last deed done, the last word said;  
The memory alone remains  
Of all its joys, its griefs, its gains;  
And now with purpose full and clear,  
We turn to meet another year."

**Wanted:** Vol. 27 of the Survey to fill a set.

Public Library, Stuart, Iowa.